

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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LD021240 [Editorial Report]

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi authorities have told the United States that it will "never be allowed" to inspect the Kingdom's Chinese-made surface-to-surface missiles, Defense Minister Prince Sultan disclosed in a magazine interview cited by AFP 29 April. Saudi Arabia made this clear in response to a U.S. request to inspect the CSS-2 missiles to ensure that they are not equipped with nuclear or chemical warheads, he noted. King Fahd also commented on Saudi Arabia's CSS-2 missiles during an interview with Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH, affirming that "these missiles are defensive and do not carry any nuclear warheads." While stressing that the missiles will be used if the Kingdom is "subjected to any threat," he expressed hope that Saudi Arabia will never have to use this defensive power.

Commenting on the break in relations with Iran, Fahd expressed hope that Iran will not act too "irresponsibly" and urged "moderate minds to play their role in Iran" so peace may prevail. In another development, a Saudi "responsible source" cited by SPA denied an Iranian news agency report that a U.S. military delegation recently paid a secret visit to Mecca. The source dismissed the Iranian report as "lies and fabrications," and the "flight of a sick imagination." No one in the Islamic world trusts the "hatred and venom" issued by "the trumpets of the Iranian regime," he said. IRNA's report, which cited the Beirut paper AL-KIFAH AL-ARABI, claimed that a "special" U.S. military delegation was taken to Mecca three times, adding that "this new Saudi sacrilege" seems to be linked with this year's pilgrimage.

The Saudi break in relations with Iran has induced a number of other Gulf states to reconsider their diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime, according to an AL-SIYASAH report cited by KUNA. The Kuwaiti paper predicted that other countries will follow the Saudi lead to pressure and isolate Iran.

Iran and the United States

Iran will respond to any U.S. "aggression" by giving a "strong" answer both in the Persian Gulf and "throughout the world," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi asserted in remarks broadcast by Tehran television 1 May. He said it would be "naive of America to believe that we will answer it on the same front that it will open." Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Majlis the same day that the United States cannot determine the zone of confrontation with Iran, and he warned that if further U.S.-Iranian incidents occur in the Persian Gulf, the region of confrontation will not be limited to the Gulf, IRNA reported. The Majlis speaker viewed the U.S. policy of protecting neutral shipping as a "plot to handcuff the Islamic Republic" and give Iraq

a free hand. Tehran radio commentaries likewise claimed that the U.S. policy aims to give Iraq full freedom to attack ships entering or leaving Iranian ports and seeks to divide the Gulf into two zones—one secure and the other insecure.

In a Friday sermon broadcast by the radio, Hashemi-Rafsanjani claimed that U.S. moves in the Gulf are part of an "extensive plan" which the United States has prepared against Iran. He also accused the United States of lacking the courage to declare the number of its casualties from the 18 April clashes and asserted that U.S. Navy warships "fired blindly" into the sea while passing by Farsi Island the night of 27 April. In another development, IRNA announced that a U.S. reconnaissance plane violated Iranian airspace over Hormozgan Province 30 April.

Iraq

INA "categorically denied" a Kuwaiti press report about a possible meeting between President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, stressing that it is "hopeless" to deal with the Syrian regime because of Al-Asad's "conspiratorial" stand and his "collusion" with Iran.

Israel

An IDF company deputy commander was suspended after being found responsible for the "unjustified" shooting of an Arab youth in a village near Janin 1 May, Jerusalem radio reported. The youth was shot dead during a clash with an IDF force that entered the village to unblock roads and take down flags. Eight other Arabs were wounded by IDF fire the same day during clashes in the Tulkarm area and the Gaza Strip, the radio disclosed, noting that one of those hit was a 10-year-old boy who was shot in the abdomen. An Arab youth subsequently died of electrocution while trying to hoist a PLO flag on an electricity pole, the radio said.

Jerusalem radio reported that the chairman of the Gaza Strip Medical Association and three editors of the banned newspaper DEREKH HANITZOTZ are among those held in administrative detention. An Israeli Arab who is secretary of the "Ansar Front" has likewise been detained under these regulations for being "a security risk," HA'ARETZ revealed.

On the Palestinian side, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio and the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio broadcast "Call No 15," which outlined a new program of action in the occupied territories between 1 and 11 May. The statement called on Palestinians to deal "the strongest blows" against those who "deviated from the will of the people" by continuing to work for the police apparatus or the appointed councils. While the Baghdad station said the call was issued by the PLO and the

"Unified National Leadership of the Uprising." Al-Quds radio stated that it was issued by "nationalist and popular committees of the uprising."

Syria-PLO

The talks between President al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat resulted in an agreement for the return of several Fatah military battalions to Syria over the next 3 months, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD revealed in a report cited by WAKH. As for the release of Palestinian detainees from Syrian jails, Palestinian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo reported that 12 have thus far been freed and are receiving medical care.

Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH had earlier published "details" of the 'Arafat-Al-Asad meeting, indicating that the PLO agreed to give Syria control of "the Lebanese card," while Syria confirmed its support for an independent Palestinian state under PLO leadership. Al-Asad reportedly expressed support for the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking, a concept which Syria has previously opposed. In other comment on the meeting, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah told Kuwait's AL-WATAN that the normalization of PLO-Syrian relations means "drawing Jordan toward the correct joint policies of Syria and the PLO," KUNA reported. The agency also cited AL-ANBA, another Kuwaiti paper, as saying that 'Arafat and Al-Asad will hold a minisummit with the Libyan and Algerian leaders this month. Meanwhile, 'Arafat has sent an "urgent" and "important" message to the Soviet leadership, according to Algiers Voice of Palestine radio.

Lebanon

Despite the recent PLO-Syrian talks, clashes erupted in Beirut refugee camps over the weekend between supporters of 'Arafat and "dissident" Palestinians of the PNSF, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio said artillery, rockets, and machineguns were used in the fighting, which took place in Shatila, Sabra, and Burj al-Barajinah. A security source cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio stated that 3 people were killed and 32 wounded. Over 10 people were killed and 20 injured in a family quarrel in southern Beirut 1 May, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Egypt

It is imperative that the "vitality" and movement of U.S. efforts for peace in the Mideast be maintained, President Husni Mubarak stressed in a May Day address carried by Cairo radio. Asserting that the U.S. Middle East missions were made at Egypt's request, Mubarak stated that the efforts "have collided with the rigid rejection of intransigent elements" in Israel. He noted that Egypt and Jordan "continuously coordinate" efforts on the peace process and that Egypt is in "constant touch" with the PLO. Concerning the recent trend of relations with Libya, Mubarak said that he welcomes unity but he will not agree to Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's request to open the border, because he does not want "terrorists" to infiltrate with bombs.

Libya

Libya "vehemently condemns" NATO military maneuvers currently being staged in the Mediterranean, a statement issued by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison said. The statement carried by JANA called the maneuvers a direct threat to the security, independence, and sovereignty of the countries of the region and called on them to protest against the exercises. Mediterranean envoys in Tripoli were summoned to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison for consultations on the exercises, JANA reported.

Tunisia

President Zine el Abidine Ben 'Ali pardoned former Economy Minister Ahmed Ben Salah, according to Tunis radio, which added that Ben Salah would neither finish the term of his sentence nor be placed under house arrest.

OPEC

A 4-day OPEC conference ended 2 May without reaching an agreement on reducing oil production, KUNA reported. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE rejected an Algerian proposal to reduce production by 300,000 barrels per day, suggesting instead an 183,000-barrel reduction, IRNA noted. According to Algiers radio, the Algerian proposal came as a compromise to a proposal by six non-OPEC countries for a reciprocal 5 percent reduction with OPEC. The Kuwaiti oil minister cited by Kuwait radio described the non-OPEC proposal for the Organization to agree to further cuts as "a bit too much." OPEC ministers agreed to discuss the proposal further at the regular meeting in June, KUNA added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

INA Dismisses Report on Saddam-Al-Asad Meeting *JN291830 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT* 29 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—INA has categorically denied today's report in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS on a possible meeting between President Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad.

The agency dismissed this report as totally untrue and unfounded. It said that following Iraq's victory in Al-Faw and the liberation of its national soil, Hafiz al-Asad met with the Iranian foreign minister in Damascus and both agreed to coordinate their stands within the framework of their strategic alliance against Iraq and pan-Arab security.

It added that the Syrian regime's stand is known and has not changed. It is hopeless to deal with this regime because of Hafiz al-Asad's insistence on his conspiratorial stand against the nation's supreme pan-Arab interests and his collusion with the Iranian invaders in their encroachment on pan-Arab security, including attempts to invade Arab territory and threaten and attack the Arab states.

Arab Minisummit Set for Libya 'in 3 Weeks' *LD300918 Kuwait KUNA in English 0836 GMT* 30 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 30 (KUNA)—A mini Arab summit is scheduled to be held in Libya in three weeks, according to local daily 'AL-ANBA'.

In a dispatch by its correspondent in Tunis, the Kuwaiti newspaper said the quadruple conference will comprise Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The paper, which was quoting well-informed Palestinian sources, said Democratic Yemen may not attend the summit at the present time.

'Arafat, the sources said, insisted during his meeting with Al-Asad last week that such a summit should take place as it will be insufficient to present a Syrian-Palestinian paper to the extraordinary Arab summit slated next June.

Gulf, Arab States Reexamining Ties With Iran *LD301011 Kuwait KUNA in English 0847 GMT* 30 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 30 (KUNA)—A number of Gulf and Arab states are presently re-examining the feasibility of having diplomatic relations with Iran, a local daily said Saturday.

AL-SIYASAH newspaper said these countries will take after Saudi Arabia as last means for putting pressure on Iran and the isolation of the Iranian regime.

Furthermore, a number of Islamic countries are also reconsidering the status of their diplomatic relations with Tehran which has turned down all Islamic efforts exerted with a view to end the Gulf war.

Arab and Islamic efforts will also unify following completion of severance of relations with Iran, to press the foreign countries which have embassies in Tehran for cutting their ties with Iran.

The sources told the daily that Arab Islamic and international unanimity toward this issue will certainly be the move which will put an end to Iran's aggressive and terrorist acts.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to USSR Leaders *LD011831 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic* 1602 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has sent an urgent message to the Soviet leadership via the Soviet ambassador in Iraq. An informed Palestinian source has pointed out that brother leader Abu 'Ammar explained to the Soviet ambassador during his reception [word indistinct] the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. The source went on to say that brother leader Abu 'Ammar's message to the Soviet leadership was very important.

Brother Abu al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, had previously received an important message from the Soviet leadership, addressed to the Palestinian leadership, on the recent talks between the USSR foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state over the search for a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference for that purpose. The letter addressed the USSR's basic position in those talks regarding the various issues involved in the international conference and the need for such a conference to be an effective one, attended by all the relevant sides, including the PLO, which should be treated on an equal footing with the other sides.

It also addressed the question of the PLO's right to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and of an international peace conference on the basis of all UN resolutions guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination. The letter noted that in the talks it emerged that the U.S. side is still continuing its known, intransigent positions on the issue of an international conference and

the rights of the Palestinian people. The letter went on to say the USSR will persist in holding talks on this matter with the U.S. side in the near future during the coming talks next [as heard] May.

Qaddumi Launches 'Fiercest Attack Yet' on U.S.
*LD021020 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0747 GMT
2 May 88*

[Text] Kuwait 2 May [KUNA]—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi launched his fiercest attack yet here today against the United States. He described its Secretary of State George Shultz as "a man full of hatred" for Arabs, depicted the U.S. Administration as "rotten," and denied that the PLO has had any contacts with such an administration.

Qaddumi praised, in interview in today's AL-SIYASAH, the stances of the Soviet Union toward the Palestinian problem and added that the Soviet flexibility toward resolving regional conflicts does not harm the Palestinian people's right to self determination.

He added that the reconciliation between the PLO and Syria does not stipulate that the two sides' stances should be compatible in all matters, especially the PLO's relations with some Arab countries like Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. "As far as the Palestinian cause and its liberation are concerned, there must, however, be a compatibility of views," he asserted.

The PLO Political Department head pointed out that as far as relations with Egypt are concerned: "Such relations do not require more clarification. Egypt, with its people and Army, is a major force...we are, however, against Camp David, its policies and procedures; this is a well-known matter and we are not the only one taking such a stance."

Answering a question on whether the PLO has had any contact with Washington through an Egyptian channel or not, Qaddumi said: "I have never made a contact with Egypt to get in touch with Washington."

'Clarification' of Hawatimah Remarks Issued
*JN301851 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 30 Apr 88*

[Text] Today we received a clarification from the DFLP on what DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said during the press conference he held in Damascus on 28 April regarding the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The DFLP says Hawatimah's remarks in that regard were misrepresented.

A DFLP Central Information spokesman said Nayif Hawatimah emphasized verbatim: The Palestinian nationalist presence in Lebanon will never be a contentious issue among Syria, Lebanese, and Palestinian

nationalist forces. The camps war is over as Nabih Birri has declared and that was clear in the Syrians' confirmation during the talks with the Fatah Central Committee.

The spokesman added that Hawatimah said verbatim: We salute the Lebanese national resistance and are proud of its resistance to Israel and, consequently, we are prepared to respond to the calls of Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, 'Asim Qansuh, and Mustafa Sa'd for the rallying of all Lebanese and Palestinian national forces under the banner of the Lebanese national resistance to expand the armed front against the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon.

The spokesman declared: That is what Nayif Hawatimah said verbatim in his press conference and it is fully compatible with the calls of the Lebanese nationalist forces ever since the file of the camps war was closed.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Ties With Syria, Jordan
*LD010959 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0826 GMT
1 May 88*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 May (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian official, in a press interview published here today, says that "the resumption of relations between the PLO and the Syrian leadership is continuing with firm steps," and he stresses that "the political common ground between Syria and the PLO is very wide."

AL-WATAN attributes DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah as saying that the meeting between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships at the end of last April was based on "the heroic uprising of our people and the means to consolidate and develop it, the dangers of the Shultz plan, common efforts to convene the emergency Arab summit, and increasing Arab solidarity toward the basic cause."

Answering a question about the possibility that the new relations between Syria and the PLO could be just a tactical or emotional step because of the martyrdom of Khalil al-Wazir, Mr Hawatimah denies this and stresses that the bilateral dialogue, which took place recently in Damascus between the Syrian and Fatah leaderships, is "the beginning of dialogues, which will enable us to stand on firm political grounds in the comprehensive dialogue between Syria and the PLO."

He says that "relations with the brothers in Syria are now formed on the basis of the joint struggle against the Zionist enemy occupying the Palestinian territories and Syrian Golan and in accordance with joint Arab interests." [passage omitted]

Asked about relations between the PLO and the Jordanian regime, Hawatimah says these relations "are determined on the basis of the resolutions of the Arab summits since the Rabat summit and not on the basis of

the Amman agreement, which has been abrogated." He says "the normalization of relations with Syria also means drawing Jordan toward the correct joint policies of Syria and the PLO."

He adds "Jordan now intends to present itself as a country which is ready to go to the negotiating table according to the Shultz plan and to the international conference on the basis of Security Council Resolution No 242. This means abandoning the commitment to Rabat summit resolutions, which include the national rights of the Palestinian people, stipulating a return to their homeland according to the resolutions of international legitimacy and their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state. [passage omitted]

'Several' Fatah Battalions To Return to Syria
*JN010948 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT
1 May 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 May (WAKH)—Press reports published here today said the talks held between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus last week resulted in an agreement providing for the return of several Fatah military battalions to Syrian territory over the next 3 months.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quoted political sources close to Damascus as saying that the agreement also provides for moving other units of the Palestinian Liberation Army to positions they occupied before 1982.

The same sources have not ruled out the possibility of Palestinian combatants returning to Lebanon's Al-Biq'a Valley in light of the positive development in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

'Uprising' Leadership Calls for 'Rage Days'
*NC2904163788 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT
29 Apr 88*

[Text] Nicosia, April 29 (AFP)—The Unified Leadership of the Uprising called Friday for a series of "Palestinian rage days" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to start on May 1, a statement issued here said.

The leadership issued a statement urging Palestinians to mark May 1—recognized as International Workers Day in many countries—as "a day of confrontation" with Israeli forces. It called for demonstrations and the raising of Palestinian flags.

The statement also threatened Palestinian policemen and municipal workers who did not "comply with the people's will" and resign their Israeli-paid positions. It singled out Hebron's mayor, 'Abd al-Majid al-Zir, whose office was attacked by demonstrators Thursday.

The organization called for a general strike on May 4, but dubbed it "national reconstruction day," during which Palestinians would cultivate the land and rebuild houses destroyed by Israeli forces.

The protest movement is also expected on May 5 to defy an Israeli order that has closed schools and universities in the territories. The statement said they would open between 9:00 a.m. and midday.

On May 7, the communique said, Palestinians should support shopkeepers who would keep their stores open. Israeli authorities Monday prevented 25 shopkeepers in East Jerusalem from opening their stores, because the merchants only wanted to open for a few hours out of the day as a sign of protest.

On the last two days covered by the communique, May 9 and 10, stores are to close once again during a general strike to mark the sixth month of the uprising. "Blows will be leveled against Israeli forces and their agents" during those days, the communique said.

The statement called on Syria to form a military alliance with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), after last Monday's reconciliation meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and President Hafiz al-Asad. It also urged residents of the territories to rename streets and schools after Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers.

Al-Quds To Broadcast News 'in Various Languages'
*JN021019 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 0953 GMT 2 May 88*

[Text] Brother listeners: In view of the news blackout imposed by the U.S.-Zionist authorities on the news of our people's revolution in Palestine, their prevention of foreign correspondents from reporting our people's uprising, and the assaults on correspondents and the seizure of their equipment and films so their reports will not reach the world, Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man, will directly broadcast all the news it receives of our people in various languages as of today, the 146th day of the heroic uprising, 2 May 1988.

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on OPEC, Non-OPEC Vienna Meeting

No Further Cuts Seen

*LD291343 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-'Adbi al-Sabah says he sees no reason why OPEC should cut its production again. Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa told journalists in Vienna at the end of the first round of talks among OPEC oil ministers in Vienna, which continued until

dawn today, that the organization had reduced its production from more than 30 million barrels a day to 17 million in the past few years.

The Kuwaiti minister described the request by non-OPEC member states for the organization to agree to further cuts as a bit too much. He added that in light of the present discussions by OPEC it would be premature to say whether the organization should accept a proposal made by the non-OPEC oil producing countries. He also noted the need to rearrange matters inside OPEC to see whether there was any need for further cuts.

Hisham Nazir, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, also spoke to journalists and said numerous issues were being discussed now and that the oil ministers needed more time.

The Nigerian oil minister and current OPEC chairman declared at the end of the first round of talks that the ministers had discussed a number of issues, including the proposal made by the non-OPEC oil producing countries for a reciprocal 5 percent cut in oil exports in the next 2 months. He said the member states delegates had welcomed the initiative, adding they would discuss it in detail during the second round of talks to be held this evening after examining the results of the emergency meeting of OPEC experts to be held this afternoon.

Talks Adjourn 29 Apr

LLD300841 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Late last night, OPEC oil ministers dispersed without reaching an agreement commensurate with the importance of the meeting. The consultative meeting of the 13 OPEC member-countries sought to find an effective means of stabilizing the oil price which was recently reduced by about \$4.00 from the benchmark price of \$18.00.

The 13 countries were called upon to adopt a united stand on the proposal of the non-OPEC oil producing countries, which requires both groups to reduce their exports by 5 percent—equivalent to 900,000 barrels per day—to consolidate the international oil market.

The details from Nabilah Khalifiyah:

Informed sources in Vienna have said that OPEC oil ministers dispersed last night, after a meeting which lasted for about 4 hours, without adopting a united stand toward this proposal. The proposal was submitted by the non-OPEC members in the first meeting between them. It is noteworthy that the proposal requires this group to reduce its oil exports by 5 percent—equivalent to 200,000 barrels per day—provided that OPEC countries follow their example and reduce their exports by an equivalent 5 percent—700,000 barrels per day. It seems the reduction proposal was not unanimously accepted within OPEC.

Yesterday's session needed a new proposal. The proposal was an Algerian compromise, submitted by Energy Minister Belkacem Nabi. The compromise, which was accepted by 8 countries, requires a reduction of exports by 300,000 barrels per day during the coming 2 months of May and June to give the oil prices new impetus.

Belkacem Nabi said what is required is not a majority but unanimity. At the same time, the four oil ministers of the Gulf countries expressed reservations and said they had to consult with their governments, but at the same time they stressed the importance of serious monitoring of quotas before thinking of reducing production.

Observers say the compromise stresses the commitment of the eight OPEC members to cooperate with the non-OPEC group. Some others exclude the possibility that the stance of the four Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE, could be a final stance, especially as not reaching any solution will have grave consequences on the weak international oil market. This hesitation and postponement is explained by observers as showing that the OPEC countries would like to postpone the adoption of a firm stance until their regular meeting which is to be held next June.

2d Round of Talks Held

JN301149 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, Apr. 30, INA—Iraqi Minister of Oil Mr 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said that a number of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC gave their initial agreement for reducing a limited percentage of their petroleum exports to support oil prices in the international market.

On conclusion of the 2nd round of OPEC's consultative meeting Mr 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim told INA correspondent that four countries had not given their final decision yet as they await further consultations.

The minister added that the amount of reduction, for countries which had agreed upon it, reached a total of 300 thousand barrels daily and that meetings and consultations will continue until reaching a final decision.

Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim said that Iraq did not give a definite view yet as it is not a party in OPEC's last agreement.

OPEC ministers will hold another round of talks this afternoon to discuss the six non-OPEC member countries' offer on making a 5 percent reduction of their exports in an initiative to support prices stability in the international market.

On the other hand informed sources said that a number of participating delegations will contact their governments to make their final decision on reductions before resuming the ministerial meetings.

The sources added that the ministers aim at establishing a solid response to the six non-OPEC members' offer as the consultative meeting will turn into an exceptional conference if a decision was made on the issue.

It is to be noted that Egypt, China, Malaysia, Oman, Angola and Mexico presented the offer during their meeting with the organization's prices observation committee here three days ago.

Output Decision 'Postponed'

LD021033 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT
2 May 88

[Text] Vienna, May 2 (KUNA)—OPEC's Consultative Conference concluded sitting here early Monday without reaching agreement on reducing daily crude output.

An official spokesman for the Kuwaiti delegation told KUNA that the conferees decided, upon Kuwait's request, to form a Technical Committee under supervision of Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman and grouping all 13 members.

He explained that the committee will discuss technicalities such as petroleum byproducts, losses and energy used in refineries in addition to oil shipments from one country to another.

The conference asked the Liaison Committee, grouping Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria, to continue dialogue and consultations with non-OPEC oil producers to discuss means of fostering closer cooperation, he elaborated.

The spokesman noted that the proposal submitted by the six non-OPEC oil exporting countries, China, Egypt, Oman, Angola, Malaysia and Mexico, to bring down their output by five percent, that is 180,000 barrels a day, was only for the two months of May and June.

He underlined that in fact the decrease will not affect the market since the oil contract deals for May have already been signed.

The Kuwaiti spokesman affirmed importance of pursuing dialogue with the non-OPEC oil exporting countries to crystallize a long term cooperation agreement between the group and OPEC.

He hoped that other oil producing countries would join the dialogue in future naming in particular the Soviet Union, Norway and Canada.

Lukman, who is the conference chairman, told a press conference today that the OPEC countries decided against taking a decision for the time being on that group's proposal.

He said a decision to this effect will be discussed during OPEC's upcoming regular meeting scheduled for June 8 in Vienna.

The OPEC members have agreed on holding more consultations with their governments on this step, Lukman said and affirmed that relations between OPEC and that group will not be affected due to the fact that an agreement was not reached during the current Consultative Council.

He said that the group's proposal is not a leave it or take it offer but rather a one that is for discussion and expressed conviction that those countries will understand OPEC's option to postpone a decision in this respect.

Asked whether OPEC fears a decline in oil prices due to lack of agreement in this conference, Lukman said that the price decline started before the conference.

He affirmed that abidance [as received] by OPEC members of their production quotas will suck between 200,000 to 300,000 barrels a day of crude from the oil market and pointed out that they have pledged commitment to their quotas.

The Consultative Conference could not reach an accord following four rounds of talks nor a compromise agreement between two proposals within OPEC to cut down production.

An Algerian proposal stipulating a slash of 300,000 barrels per day from OPEC's ceiling was met with another tabled by the four Arab Gulf countries of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar calling for a reduction of 180,000 barrels a day to be cut off equally from each member country.

However, observers here believe that delaying a decision on this matter until the forthcoming OPEC conference was the best solution in current circumstances.

IRNA on Saudi Position

LD010858 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT
1 May 88

[Text] Vienna, May 1, IRNA—Oil ministers of 13 OPEC countries started third session here late Saturday night to finalize talks on possibility of reducing OPEC production for May and June.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are to present their counter-arguments concerning their objection to the proposed 300,000 barrels per day by eight remaining members.

Iran, Algeria, Gabon, Ecuador, Venezuela, Nigeria and Indonesia are calling for a 300,000 barrel per day reduction in a bid to meet a similar cut proposed by six independent oil producers. The joint effort is aimed at oil market stability.

Saudi Arabia is refusing the proposed cut and is demanding a 182,000 barrels per day reduction. The Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir refused to comment on his country's stance.

The Kuwaiti Oil and Industries Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah said that prior to any reduction in OPEC production ceiling the term "production" must be technically defined within the OPEC framework.

Delegations from the four countries, all members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, held talks prior to start of the session. According to oil experts opposition of the group will lead to their isolation in the organization.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh has stated that OPEC is going through a crucial time and the session must positively cooperate with independent oil producers for reducing production.

Non-OPEC oil producers here last week agreed on a five per cent production cut and called on OPEC to follow suit.

Aqazadeh stressed that a positive step will make OPEC stronger and will stabilize the market. If the session fails, he said, those who have worked towards it should be held responsible.

Minister on 'Appropriate' Price

BK2904104688 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0851 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, April 29 (ANTARA/OANA) — It is in Indonesia's interest to sustain the oil price at an appropriate level and it therefore considers that for the time being the price level of around U.S.\$18 per barrel to be correct and proper for the producing as well as for the consumer countries.

Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita, therefore, in his reaction here Wednesday on the proposal of the non-OPEC countries for a 5-percent reduction in the oil exports, questioned what advantages could be gained from the withdrawal of great quantities of supplies from the market.

The withdrawal of great quantities of supplies from the market, Ginanjar (?said), would cause scarcity of supplies in the market, causing in turn speculative activities which quickly would stimulate soaring prices.

Although the quick rise in prices would seem to benefit the producing countries, but in the long run would also harm them, Ginanjar said.

The high prices would tempt the producing countries to meet the market demands and to produce above the quota which they had agreed upon.

Indonesia, Ginanjar Kartasasmita said, is also in need of an increase in price, but a gradual one, supported by a long-term balance of supply and demand, and not an artificial one based on speculation.

At present, he said, the price level of U.S.\$18 per barrel is correct and proper. This price level has so far turned out to be workable. At this price level of U.S.\$18, exploration activities have proceeded smoothly, investments have been encouraged, the producing countries have been capable of utilizing their oil proceeds for their respective national development and the consumer countries did not feel it as a burden, he added.

In connection with the offer of the non-OPEC countries on the 5-percent export reduction which should also be met by the OPEC countries, Ginanjar Kartasasmita is of the personal opinion that he is not convinced about the existence of a surplus supply of 1 million barrels per day at the oil market. This is due to the many analyses which came up with many different figures, he said.

The proposal of the non-OPEC countries should however be taken into consideration by the OPEC countries in their consultative meeting Tuesday evening.

Of course there are several alternatives, he said. The OPEC countries will accept the proposal or submit a new offer, the Indonesian minister of mining and energy said.

Chad

Chambers of Commerce End Meeting 29 Apr
AB3004111088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The seventh General Assembly of the Federation of Central African Chambers of Commerce ended yesterday morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference hall. For 3 days, the representatives of the Central African subregion addressed themselves to the problems facing the institution. Such problems include the financial difficulties that have dangerously plagued the federation and its smooth functioning. Two addresses were made at the closing session. The General Assembly charged the president of the Federation to undertake a familiarization tour of all member states. It also decided to convene an extraordinary general assembly in 1 of the 13 member countries. The date for this session will be fixed later. Meanwhile, the next regular meeting of the Federation will be held in Cameroon.

The final communique issued at the end of the deliberations particularly stressed the need to strengthen the institutional machinery of the Federation, to facilitate and promote trade relations in the subregion, and to foster the processing and dissemination of data on trade and industry and the dissemination of information on the activities of the Federation. Concerning the budget, the delegates agreed to maintain the budget at the same level as last year in the absence of a better solution. The guiding principle of the Federation for the new fiscal year is the promotion of the concept of great efforts and hard work among businessmen. [passage omitted]

Egypt

End to 'Misunderstanding' With Syria Expected
NC3004131888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Arab press reports have cited Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid as saying: There are no differences between us and the Syrians. We expect the misunderstanding between Egypt and Syria to end soon. We highly respect Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. I hope that he will extend his hand to our extended hand so that we can coordinate together in order to place Israel in an international predicament and force it to abandon its intransigence, restore to the Palestinians their legitimate rights, and to cease occupation of the Arab territories.

'Abd al-Majid added: If Israel does not respond to international pressure and continues its intransigence, we will then have no choice—if all diplomatic methods are exhausted—but to use force to regain our usurped rights. He said: We support independent Palestinian decision making. We are confident that the PLO will not reassess its relations with Egypt in the wake of President al-Asad's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. We also are confident that the Syrian president is fully aware of the

inevitability of continued coordination between Egypt, the PLO, Jordan, and Syria, as Cairo will remain the key to peace and the focal point for managing conflict in the region.

Trial of Libyan-Linked Defendants To Begin
NC0105214888 Cairo MENA in English 2119 GMT
1 May 88

[Text] Cairo, May 1 (MENA)—The Supreme Emergency State Security Court will be starting measures of trial tomorrow morning of 15 defendants, including eight at large, on a charge of committing acts of communication with Libya to carry out hostile operations against Egypt with the intent of damaging the country's political and economic position as well as its national interests.

Security agencies information said this organization is making of Nasirite ideas of Arab unity and socialism a basis of its call for revolutionary armed struggle against the regime on a claim that the state's policies are not identical with socialist Nasirite ideology calls for Arab unity, a unified Arab state and fighting the capitalist systems that are represented in the United States and Israel.

The information said that within the framework of dissemination of this revolutionary style of their ideology and polarization of organizational elements operating in accordance with their armed approach, they contacted labour and student centres and took part in general symposia.

Security information confirmed that the organization had received material support from the Libyan intelligence agencies in addition to members' subscriptions that had been used for spending on the organization's activities and procurement of the seized (?explosives) and weapons, of which some had been used in organizational operations aimed at shaking confidence in the existing regime and confusion to overthrow the regime.

The information said a number of defendants travelled to Libya, where they received training over a period of 35 days on the use and manufacture of explosives in a Libyan intelligence service camp.

Some of them, said the information, received training in Libyan intelligence service barracks in Lebanon on preparation of explosive charges.

Security agencies information said that in May 1986, a number of the defendants planted simultaneously explosive charges before the Cairo headquarters of Misr-America International Bank (MIB), Thomas Cooke Bank and an American Airways company to raise chaos in the country, show the weakness of the existing regime and demonstrate their challenge of the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel.

The explosive charge that was planted before MIB went off, whereas the rest of the explosive charges did not.

The information asserted that the defendants had planned for assassinating the Israeli ambassador to Egypt and blowing up the bus link between Egypt and Israel.

The defendants for hard labour punishment on a charge of seeking to communicate with a foreign country to commit hostile acts against Egypt. [sentence as received]

They are also facing a charge of possessing without license weapons and explosives.

Libya

NATO's Mediterranean Maneuvers Criticized

Statement Issued

LD302027 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Apr (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement today about the maneuvers being carried out by NATO in the Mediterranean which said:

NATO is carrying out military maneuvers in the Mediterranean until 18 May 1988. With regard to this, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed the following:

These maneuvers, taking place in one of the most sensitive areas of the world, and exactly opposite the coasts of a number of nonaligned countries, stress the provocative intentions of the participating countries toward the peoples of the region and is a straightforward expression of their defiance of the will of the international community and their disregard for the right of the peoples of the region to live in peace and security.

These maneuvers are a direct threat to the security, independence, and sovereignty of the countries of the region, and expose to danger air and maritime navigation and the lanes of civilian passengers and international trade. They are also an alarming indication of events which cannot be controlled and which can cause disastrous consequences to international peace and security.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, while recalling United Nations and nonaligned resolutions with regard to security and peace in the Mediterranean, would like to point in particular to the fact that the eighth conference of the Nonaligned Movement in Harare clearly condemned such military maneuvers in the Mediterranean and any other aspects of muscle-flexing because they lead to extremely dangerous events and threaten the sovereignty and independence of the nonaligned countries in the region. This position was

also stressed at the second conference of the nonaligned countries along the Mediterranean coast, which was held in Brioni, Yugoslavia from 2 to 4 June 1987.

Stressing what the brother leader of the revolution said in his speech on 13 April 1988, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya vehemently condemns these maneuvers and calls on the peoples of the region and international opinion to condemn them and to try in every possible way to stop them and prevent their repetition.

Diplomats Summoned

LD302001 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Apr (JANA)—At noon today the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the heads of the diplomatic missions of the nonaligned littoral Mediterranean countries and consulted with them regarding the military exercises being held in the Mediterranean by NATO [as heard], which constitute a violation of UN and Nonaligned Movement resolutions, an act of defiance, intimidation of the peoples of the region, and a threat to international peace and security.

Al-Qadhafi Interviewed; Makes Statement

Criticizes U.S. 'Aggression'

LD301315 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] The Paris-based Radio Orient has interviewed the brother leader of the revolution. In the interview he spoke about various pan-Arab and international issues.

In the interview, the brother leader spoke about the aggression of the U.S. Administration against Iran, saying: Reagan, who rules the United States, is mad, a fool harboring rancor against the Arabs, Islam, and the East. He is a puppet in the hands of Zionism and in the hands of [word indistinct], and there is no deterrent for him. We, and others, must expect aggression at any time.

The brother leader said further: A savage aggression took place against Iran, and from its first day it was directed against economic targets. Going against the rules of war, the enemy resorts to economic targets if it fails to paralyze military power. This is done within restricted limits in an attempt to affect military power. When a superpower, which has a seat at the Security Council, first attacks economic targets in order to protect peace, then it means that we have entered into unreasonableness and into a mad world.

The brother leader also said: All nations have no alternative but to become allies in a broad front against the United States, which is to be considered Hitler, Nazism and fascism. It must be eliminated by an internationalist alliance, and it must be fought by everyone in alliance

with the oppressed peoples inside it, such as the blacks, the American Indians, the Arabs, and the other minorities, so that this evil may be eliminated.

We and others, the brother leader said, expect aggression at any time because there is no deterrent whatsoever for Reagan. He added: Aggression is not launched against the Soviet Union because it has a nuclear deterrent; it is not launched against the United States because it has a nuclear deterrent. We have no nuclear or other deterrent. By their own logic we are laid open to aggression. They say: Peace has been maintained between the superpowers because they have nuclear deterrents, that is, means of destruction. We do not have these means. We have no deterrent against war. This is affirmed by them. Therefore, we must seek a deterrent, a means to deter by our own individual endeavor.

This is why, the brother leader also said, we see the Palestinian people killing their enemies with handguns. This is the only deterrent they have. As for independent states like ourselves, they must enter into a wide internationalist front to fight imperialism in a collective way until it is defeated. It will inevitably be defeated because evil does not last long. This colonial empire is bound to be defeated. It is already becoming old and senile. We will triumph over it and its desperate attempts against us will not deflect us.

This colonial empire, the brother leader affirmed, will not stop the Iranian revolution or the revolution in Nicaragua. Hatred is growing every day against the United States; the ground is beginning to shake under its feet from the Philippines to Panama.

Comments on Gulf War

LD292139 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The Paris-based radio station Al-Sharq had an interview with the brother leader of the revolution in which he spoke about a number of pan-Arab and international issues. In his interview the brother leader of the revolution touched upon the Iraq-Iran war and its interactions in the Arabian Gulf region, stressing the Great Jamahiriya's clear stand that: We have been against the war since its beginning, and our efforts to stop it are continuous. We consider it an aimless war that serves only imperialism and Zionism, and we consider it stupid to continue with it.

The brother leader explained that this is our stand: Namely, to work to stop this war without allowing ourselves to fight either of the two warring sides. This is because one is Muslim and revolutionary and the other is Muslim and Arab, and there is no question of fighting either side. However, there is a possibility for mediation between them, and this is what the Jamahiriya is doing. She will continue her efforts until the war ends, God willing.

Makes May Day Statement

LD010902 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT
1 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 1 May (JANA)—On May Day, the brother leader of the revolution made the following statement to JANA:

The international day of deceit of the world's wage earners, 1 May, comes this year with millions of wage earners still being exploited. They have not been freed from the slavery of earning salaries, which are used against them by the rulers and factory owners to steal their efforts and sweat.

The emancipation of millions of wage earners in the world lies in the abolition of salaries and the freedom of workers from slavery. Workers should turn this day, a day of deceit, into a day of struggle against this lie and into a confrontation against the forces of exploitation by marching on factories, production sectors, and administrations. They should claim their whole share of production and abolish wages forever.

The current fallacy in the world these days indicates that the freedom of the workers is incomplete. In fact, it is nonexistent. It can be achieved only if millions are freed from slavery to wages, [words indistinct]. If workers agree among themselves, then the factory owners will have to accept the fait accompli, and that will be the end of them.

The real day for workers is 1 September 1978, when wage earners of the soil of the Jamahiriya were freed. They destroyed the dens of exploitation everywhere; they took control of factories and other production sectors; they became partners.

The Green Book, the third international theory, depicts the unique way to liberate mankind from oppression and exploitation and paves the way for the final emancipation of all the world's workers. Therefore, workers should seek advice from the Green Book to gain their freedom and put an end to slavery to wages.

Wage earners, no matter how their salaries improve, are in fact a category of slaves. The wage earner is a slave to the master who hires him. His slavery is judged according to his type of job, in return for [word indistinct] from the factory owner.

All the speeches and statements delivered during such a day do not incite the workers to free themselves from slavery to wages. These speeches and statements deeply encourage exploitation and the workers should not listen to them at all.

Paper Links Mosad With Naples Nightclub Attack
LD301528 Tripoli JANA in English 1408 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Rome, Al-Tayr [April] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Italian newspaper IL MANIFESTO yesterday reported that there are significant suspicions amongst official sources in Italy that the Zionist secret services (Mosad) were behind the two car bombs which went off outside a night-club used by the troops of the 6th Fleet in Naples at the beginning of this month.

The paper pointed out that an official at the Italian Socialist Party did not rule out the possibility of the involvement of Zionist Mosad in recent explosions in Italy.

Involvement in New Caledoni Unrest Denied
LD291756 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Apr (JANA)—The French authorities are trying to blame foreign quarters for what is taking place in New Caledonia, with Bernard Pons, minister of overseas departments and territories, going so far as to say that the Great Jamahiriya is backing the Caledonian people, and treating this as open intervention in Caledonia.

The French statements coincide with reports about an escalating direct armed confrontation between freedom-seeking Kanaks and the French forces massed in the Caledonian archipelago and with reports saying a number of French soldiers have been taken prisoner and six others killed at the hands of Kanak revolutionaries.

While affirming that Libya has nothing to do with these events in Caledonia, and that what is being seen by this South Pacific archipelago is a popular awakening that calls for independence and freedom from France, which is thousands of miles away from the Caledonian territory, we ask ourselves the following:

First: If we accept the allegations, made by the French authorities, of interference in the affairs of Caledonia, how then should we call its own direct military intervention in Chad, and its support for the head of a gang that rebelled against the legitimate government of Chad, which is composed of 11 elements representing the various sections of the Chadian people and came as a result of an African consensus through the Lagos agreements?

Second: If Bernard Pons, French minister of overseas departments and territories, wants—by blaming others for what is going on in New Caledonia—to hide his own failure and that of his government at a time when France is undergoing the struggle for power of presidential

elections, then he must realize Caledonia is experiencing a revolution against colonialism and that blaming others will not change reality in any way.

France Criticized

LD301849 Tripoli JANA in English 1652 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] [No dateline as received] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The French forces sent reinforcements within the last few hours to the New Caledonia which is witnessing growing popular revolution against French colonialism.

The despatch of reinforcements continued throughout last week without any signs in sight that the French authorities will realise any of their goals in quelling the revolution of the Kanak people and containing it with the force and terror of arms.

Sudanese Cited on Mubarak Stand on Initiative
NC2904180988 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Sudanese officials, who have received in Khartoum the brother Libyan envoy to the Arab countries over the past 2 days, have expressed surprise at the Egyptian president's stand on the Great Libyan Jamahiriya's initiative. The Sudanese officials emphasized that this position is not Arab or rational. They indicated that the Egyptian president had asked them to personally mediate an end to the propaganda campaigns and the withdrawal of forces from the fabricated borders. They added that the Egyptian president, by showing such a hostile stand toward a pan-Arab initiative in the interest of the Arab people of the Jamahiriya and Egypt, is pleasing America and following its orders.

Mauritania

Student Strikers Cause Property Damage
LD300059 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Within the framework of making baccalaureate examinations more coordinated, it has been deemed necessary to make the questions presentation on the level of six branches more balanced. In fact, they are on one subject among the eight science subjects, on three topics of modern literature, and on two optional subjects. This reform was implemented in accordance with the recommendations of a technical committee composed of 20 teachers and inspectors. This committee was set up in accordance with Memo No 0940 of 14 November 1987. In the opinion of these experts, the new situation presents a number of advantages, which are as follows:

1. To make the subject more comprehensive, taking into account the whole program. This enables the candidate to deal at least with one part of the topic.

2. To put an end to time-wasting which is generally repeated due to the student's hesitation before he or she makes a choice from among the questions. It is always noticeable that candidates drop a subject, once they start dealing with it, as soon as they encounter the simplest difficulties. Then the students restart the same process with a new subject, thus wasting a substantial part of the time allowed.

3. To evaluate the paper-marking operation because this evaluation is based on papers that deal with the same subject.

4. To establish a general education system, instead of making 4 exams among the 32 exams exceptional, which will be included in the baccalaureate certificate.

On 24 April a group of students from three education institutions in Nouakchott boycotted the lessons on the pretext that the new changes are not in the interest of students. The ministry believes that the (?strikers) acted in good faith. It abolished these changes and informed the heads of the educational institutions in Nouakchott before midday and the other institutions and provinces on the same day about this measure. No special forces for preserving order were deployed to the education institutions because by ending the educational motive the disturbances lost their justification.

While the overwhelming majority of the students have continued their lessons, groups of inciters, including elements which do not belong to the education institutions, tried on 26 and 27 April to spread chaos, using their colleagues to damage school property and even private property. The real face of the extremists was clearly exposed, as they tried anew to exploit the schools and students to disguise their unreasonable aims.

This behavior becomes more dangerous because it occurs during the blessed month of Ramadan and our orthodox religion and Islamic ethics call for discipline, not for chaos. The most important preoccupation for the Muslim should be preserving social peace so everyone can do his work peacefully and calmly. Those who violate these rules are contradicting the teachings of Islam and the customs of our people who are committed to their religion.

Stressing that the baccalaureate examinations will take place as previously, the ministry calls on the students and their parents to understand the reality of the venal game of which they are victims. They must therefore confront any such new attempt. Schools are places for study and not for strikes and settling accounts. Those who have the chance to attend school should protect this gain and privilege.

Sudan

Declaration of New Government Expected 2 May *JN301054 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT* 30 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, April 30 (SUNA)—The new national reconciliation government is expected to be declared next Monday, the daily AL-SIYASAH issued here today reported.

The daily said Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is currently conducting talks with the chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" on the question of the new cabinet, regional government and the council of the south.

According to the agreement reached by the Al-Ummah Party, the DUP the Islamic National Front and the southern parties, the cabinet will comprise 26 ministers and the new Council of the State will include 5 members, two from the Al-Ummah, one for each other political group participating in the government. Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary General of the DUP Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has warned from forming a northern Moslem government against the southern Christian parties.

Al-Husayn, who is the former interior minister, told the daily AL-TELEGRAPH [name as received] issued here today forming such a government will harm the unity and aggravate the political situation in the country.

On the other hand, member of Al-Ummah Party, [not further identified], said the government will be formed without the opposing southern parties.

Delegation Briefs Al-Mahdi on Ethiopia Visit *JN301750 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT* 30 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (SUNA)—State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, who arrived here today from Ethiopia after participating in the meetings of the Sudanese-Ethiopian joint committee, has said that the committee's meetings were brought to a successful conclusion with a statement issued by the two sides.

In comments to the press today, he pointed out that the statement stresses the two sides' concern about their national sovereignty and territorial integrity and added it also stressed the two sides' commitment to settle all problems peacefully. He said the statement will bring peace, security, and stability to both countries.

Dr Taj al-Din noted that the joint committee held several meetings during which an agreement was reached on the agenda that was presented by the Sudanese side during the Djibouti meeting, with some amendment.

Dr Taj al-Din said a technical committee was formed comprising six members of each side, and that this committee will meet in Khartoum on 10 May, as the Sudanese side proposed, to discuss all issues and propose solutions to them. He said this committee's recommendations will be submitted to the higher ministerial committee which will meet in Addis Ababa on 17 May, and the ministerial committee will in turn submit its recommendations to a summit meeting between Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and President Mengistu Haile Mariam to be held during the OAU's 25th anniversary celebrations in Addis Ababa between 19-25 May.

Dr Taj al-Din said the Sudanese delegation held two lengthy meetings with the Ethiopian president during which clear and frank discussions focused on all issues between the two countries.

Dr Taj al-Din and his delegation met with Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to acquaint him with the results of their talks in Ethiopia.

Military Source Says Southern Regions 'Calm'
*JN292014 Khartoum SUNA in English 1757 GMT
29 Apr 88*

[Text] Khartoum, April 29 (SUNA)—Security situation in the southern regions in general and big towns in particular is calm, a reliable military source told the daily "AL-MAYDAN" published today.

The source asserted to the daily that the Armed Forces are currently preparing to repulse remains of rebels from all the southern regions.

On the other hand the daily reporting from Juba town said that living conditions in the town are fastly deteriorating and looting and armed robbery have tangibly increased in comparison to the previous days. Besides, food supplies are no longer properly distributed.

Tunisia

President Speaks on Trade Unions 1 May
*LD011400 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 1 May 88*

[Excerpts] This morning, at the Presidential Palace in Carthage, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali presided over an official festival celebrating international labor day. The president made the following statement:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters: It pleases me very much to welcome you all, especially the trade union committee, which will prepare for the UGTT [Tunisian General Labor Federation] extraordinary conference. It consists of Ahmed Ben Rmila, Kamal Saad, Khereddine

Bouslah, Belkacem Hmidi, Hasan Hammoudia, Ali Ramdan, Ismail Sahbani, Khereddine Salhi, Abderazek Ghorbal, and Moustafa Qamar. It will be presided over by (Habib Tliba), the trade union activist who is known to all trade unionists for his honesty, fairness, and commitment to the principles for which Ferhat Heshad was martyred.

Brothers and sisters, it is a good omen that our celebrations of the first labor day after the 7 November change are coupled with solving the trade union issue. Let us congratulate ourselves on the fact that brother trade unionists were guided well on the path of wisdom by overtaking the problems of the past and its associations. This indicates that the UGTT has closed its ranks and restored its high status among national organizations, and also that all trade unionists agree on working to benefit this organization and the country in general. [passage omitted]

Employers and employees, now more than at any previous time, must avoid conflict and adhere to the regulations and ethics of work. The existence and continuation of work, and of organizations depends on good clear relations between the two sides. This cannot be achieved without restoring economic attitudes—which eliminate complacency and carelessness—rationalizing management, and developing and using human resources wisely.

Brothers and sisters, we are now in a better position to deal with such problems, because the brother trade unionists were well guided to an honorable solution to the UGTT issue. This continued for a long time, wasted a lot of effort and time for the working circles and the country in general. Today we address them all, especially Habib Achour and Abdelaziz Bouraoui, a greeting of appreciation and respect, for preferring the interests of the UGTT to narrow interests and considerations. [passage omitted]

President Pardons Former Minister
*LD301518 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 30 Apr 88*

[Text] At the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a report from Slaheddine Baly, minister of state in charge of justice, on progress in the ministry's activities. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche was also in attendance.

Following the meeting, Slaheddine Baly announced that his excellency the president had decided to pardon Ahmed ben Salah [former minister of the economy] by dropping the remainder of his prison sentence and pardoning him from house arrest. [as heard]

The sentence was passed by the high court of justice on 24 May 1970.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Belgium-Netherlands Military Team
JN290635 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Manama, 28 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this evening received Luke van Markin [name as received], commander of the naval group of the joint Belgium-Netherlands military unit, and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Netherlands Ambassador Josephus Veling, and Belgian Ambassador Marcel van Roy [name as received].

The joint naval military delegation arrived in Manama earlier today on a visit to Bahrain lasting several days.

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to UK
JN011128 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT
1 May 88

[Text] Manama, 1 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah returned to Manama from London this morning following a visit lasting several days to the UK.

During the visit, the Bahraini foreign minister held talks with Geoffrey Howe, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and a number of UK officials on the prospects for bilateral cooperation, the current developments in the Arabian Gulf region, especially the dangers of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, and guaranteeing the freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

The talks also tackled the latest developments in the Palestine question in light of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait

Government Denies Allowing Iraq To Use Airspace
LD292037 Kuwait KUNA in English 1821 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] United Nations, April 25 (KUNA)—Kuwait rejected Friday Iranian allegations that Iraqi military aircraft were permitted to use Kuwaiti airspace. The allegations were contained in a "Note Verbale" which the Iranian Foreign Ministry said had been delivered to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran on May [as received] 10.

In response, Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan said this could not be so because the embassy is closed "and all work there is suspended because there is no staff there."

"As you aware," Abu al-Hasan said in a letter addressed to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, "the suspension of work at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran was the result of the holding of an organized Iranian demonstration in which the inviolability of the Kuwaiti Embassy and its contents was infringed and flouted, as you were informed at the appropriate time last year.

"It now seems clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not satisfied with repeating spurious allegations that have already been rebutted by Kuwait but is now circulating letters that have no justification and no basis in truth," he said.

Abu al-Hasan said Kuwait deeply regretted "this irresponsible Iranian conduct, which is aimed at creating obvious confusion that is not in the interests of the stability and security of the region."

Airliner Hijacking Planned 6 Months Ago
NC240943 Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English
24 Apr 88 p 1

[Excerpts] The Cyprus Government has strong evidence that the hijacking of the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 earlier this month was planned at least six months in advance and that one of the hijackers had visited Cyprus and Kuwait long before the hijacking.

The CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY yesterday quoted Government Spokesman Akis Fandis as saying that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti Jumbo jet was not a spontaneous action like previous hijackings, but "a well-prepared, well-planned and sophisticated operation". The spokesman pointed to reports that one of the hijackers knew all about the aircraft and was thought to be a flight engineer. He said the Government has "indisputable evidence" gathered by intelligence services here and abroad, that the whole operation was planned last November, at the latest.

He disclosed that one of the nine hijackers had visited Cyprus and Kuwait long before the hijacking, apparently to gather information on the location and functioning of airports in the two countries. He said the man had used a false passport and a false identity when he entered Cyprus. He declined to give a description of the man.

Added information said this unidentified man had visited Cyprus twice in the last six months. The Cyprus police have a picture of him. [passage omitted]

CNA also revealed that a day after the arrival of the plane, Cypriot and PLO negotiators persuaded the hijackers to release 34 of the 51 hostages aboard, but a few hours later the deal collapsed owing to "outside guidance" which the hijackers received from their leaders abroad over radio or through another method of communication.

AL-QABAS Comments on Airline Office Blast
JN011610 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
29 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Unity of Stand"]

[Text] The explosion in front of the Saudi airline office the day before yesterday was a clear indicator of the links among the political, security, and military events in our Gulf region. The threads of these events can be traced back to Tehran and are being manipulated by the same policy that is based on hostility on the political, military, and security levels.

The significance of the explosion is clear; it was a reaction on Kuwaiti territory to a decision made within Saudi sovereignty and in full harmony with Saudi Arabia's duty to protect its own security and safety. Iran, through its agents, replied to the Saudi diplomatic decision because Tehran's political course is an aggressive one.

The hostile spirit through which Iran deals with its neighbors in the Gulf has prompted its agents to reply in this cheap and cowardly way rather than through public diplomatic confrontation. This is because Iran has lacked the ability to persuade others since it lost its credibility as a result of its dual stands. This hostile course repeated itself by fabricating incidents on Kuwaiti territory, striking at oil installations in the UAE, attacking peaceful ships in international waters, uttering daily threats against Gulf states with the aim of imposing Tehran's will on them, fabricating the painful incidents during the pilgrimage season, and, recently, causing the explosion in front of the Saudi airline offices in Kuwait.

The significance of the explosion is also clear in broader terms. Following the Al-Faw liberation, Iran was expected to try to conceal its grave defeat by fabricating incidents in regional states. This is the only means Iran has to demonstrate its presence as an effective force in the region following the disgrace inflicted on its armed forces in Al-Faw. Moreover, the occupation of Al-Faw 2 years ago was another form of Iranian hostility and was also a reply to the Arab, Islamic, and international peace calls in the region.

It seems Iran does not learn from field lessons since it persists in its hostility, although Iraq has isolated Iran on the regional and international levels. Meanwhile, Tehran does not know how to conceal its defeat while celebrations are prevailing in the Arab world, particularly Baghdad, on the liberation of Al-Faw. The course of aggression needs a force to confront it. Given that Iraq has laid down the bases for the course of confrontation and realized honorable achievements, our GCC is requested to solidify the unity of our fate by adopting a course that will preserve our security and secure our

future. Such a course is represented by cooperation and coordination against terrorism. Undoubtedly, our leaders are the first ones to realize the importance of such a course now.

Paper Urges Iran To Abandon 'Stubbornness'
LD300856 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 30 (KUNA)—A local daily Saturday urged the Iranian leaders to stop the bloody conflict and to realize that the eight years of destructive war is a plot that aims at exhausting the capabilities of Iraq and Iran.

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM affirmed that Iran's feelings of being isolated from the world "has pushed it to commit stupid acts", adding that the Iranian regime "has registered political and diplomatic retreats on various fronts and in more than one occasion."

The newspaper stressed that it is time now for the Iranian officials to "abandon their stubbornness," to be more realistic when evaluating the situation and to realize that the war is an international plot targeting the two Moslem countries in addition to the whole Islamic world.

PDRY

Nu'man Delivers Speech at May Day Rally
EA012025 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Democratic Yemen celebrates today, along with all the people of the world, international workers day, 1 May. A rally held yesterday at the Palestine Conference Hall to mark the occasion was attended by Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other Political Bureau and the Central Committee members, ministers, members of the Central Council of Trade Unions, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Aden, and fraternal and friendly trade union delegations that had come to participate in the celebrations.

During the rally, Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man delivered a speech on behalf of the party and government in which he conveyed the greetings of the Political Bureau, the Presidium, and the Council of Ministers to all the workers and toiling masses in the world on the occasion of the international day of the working class, 1 May.

He mentioned the achievements of the international working class in fulfilling its historic mission and expressed sentiments of affection and gratitude to our class brothers, friends, and comrades on this great path. These included workers in Arab countries, socialist states, and the international labor movement who have offered our people, our revolution, and our Yemeni working class material, political, and moral support in

our just cause. They continue to uphold their pledge by standing by us in our fight against backwardness and for progress and the building of life.

He also touched on the struggle of Yemeni workers and the role they have assumed in carrying out their historic mission in the Yemeni arena.

Energy Minister Receives Soviet Counterpart

*LD301145 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Text] Comrade Anatoliy Ivanovich Mayorets, member of the CPSU Central Committee and All-Union minister of power and electrification, stopped at Aden International Airport this morning on his way home. He was met by Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of energy and minerals; a number of other officials in the ministry; the Soviet ambassador; and the economic adviser in Aden.

During a friendly discussion, Brother ibn Husaynun and Comrade Mayorets reviewed work on the thermal power station and appropriate ways of accelerating its completion according to plan. They also discussed the development of future cooperation in the field of energy. They expressed satisfaction at the progress of the current work and at the level of relations between the two friendly countries in the field of energy.

Soviet Naval Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

*EA300458 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT
29 Apr 88*

[Excerpt] A Soviet military delegation, led by Comrade Naval Admiral Vladimir Vasilyevich Sidorov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy commander of the Soviet Navy, left Aden yesterday evening after a visit to our country that lasted several days. During the visit, the admiral met the leaderships of the Defense Ministry and the naval forces.

Shortly before leaving Aden International Airport, he made a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY in which he expressed his pleasure and that of the delegation accompanying him to have visited our country. He expressed his gratitude and that of the accompanying delegation for the hospitality and good reception accorded them. He confirmed eagerness for the continued development of the firm friendship and relations between our two peoples and forces, particularly between the Soviet Navy and the naval forces of Democratic Yemen. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd on Iran Ties, Hajj, Missiles, Hijack

*JN301602 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
28-29 Apr 88 pp 1, 7*

[Interview with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by AL-SIYASAH Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah; place, date not given]

[Text] Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, how did you follow the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, a hijacking that ended in the manner we know?

Answer: I was in constant touch with my brother, His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad [the amir of Kuwait]. Throughout the ordeal Saudi state organs were mobilized to serve the objective of ending the hijacking. I personally followed the matter, and that took a great deal of effort. My brother, Amir Shaykh Jabir, suggested that I contact President Hafiz al-Asad, who responded positively. Perhaps it is appropriate to thank the president for his positive response. I also contacted Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who responded positively. Perhaps it is also appropriate to reiterate my thanks to the Algerian president for his response. I exerted efforts, and that is right and it is our duty toward our country Kuwait.

I could not imagine the bodies of innocent people being thrown from the door of the plane. It was inhuman. Indeed, it was all shameful when viewed from a humanitarian angle. It was painful and worrying for me personally, and for our people in the Kingdom, to imagine the condition of the hostages aboard the plane. It was painful and disturbing. We saw the state of the innocent hostages; it was disturbing and inhuman. It is a painful reality that embodies a state of disturbed international relations. The state of the hostages disturbed our minds and hearts. We ask, what is their fault? How far has international terrorism gone?

All states must join together in fighting such terrorism and ending the harm it causes to mankind. Detaining innocent people for 16 days inside a plane and threatening them with death every other moment—such a situation must end. All countries in the world must join together in combatting it and finding an end to such actions. The hijackers must be punished for their evil action. All states must join together to punish the hijackers and must not let them escape justice. We, the countries of the world, must strive together to combat terrorism in all the forms existing now in the world, so that such terrorism will not prevail and develop, so that its harm will not spread to everyone, and so that there will be no states fostering and supporting such terrorism.

We must stem the wave of terrorism. We must establish an integrated system among states that provides for boycotting those that support terrorism—an economic boycott and all kinds of boycott. Such a measure will undoubtedly lead to curbing the wave of terrorism whose inhuman manifestations we saw aboard the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah."

I followed the incident with pain. I held my contacts as though the hijacked plane were a Saudi plane. I followed the hijacking and held contacts and coordinated with my brother, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. We succeeded in reducing the bad consequences of the hijacking. Kuwait stood fast and held on to its principles. It declared, and gave the impression that should prevail, that terrorism is not

successful in all cases. The hijackers have failed. We emphasize that the hijackers must be severely punished so that they will be an example to others. I appeal to all states to help Kuwait in bringing the hijackers to justice so that they can get the punishment they deserve.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, after the Kuwaiti airliner hijack, through which the pirates sought to blackmail Kuwait into releasing convicted criminals, the country's political leadership is coming under tremendous popular pressure to follow through with implementing the sentences. What do you think?

Answer: I wouldn't be more astute or wise than my brother, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, who must be more knowledgeable than I about Kuwait's affairs. These have trifled with Kuwait's security and killed innocents on numerous occasions, and a killer eventually gets killed. Much as I was distressed by the death of those martyred aboard "Al-Jabiriyah," I am a believer in God and His fate. I have a firm belief in God's words: Promise a killer that he will eventually be killed. [as published] If they have escaped punishment in this world, they will not be spared God's retribution.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, Iran wants to go to Mecca with a certain number of pilgrims and you have set a different quota.

Answer: This has been agreed upon with Islamic bodies and countries of high credentials in the Muslim world. The decision was not made by Saudi Arabia. We put the Muslim world and organizations in the picture of our circumstances in the holy places. Forty-five Muslim countries have appreciated our circumstances. Only Iran dissented. The number of pilgrims has increased beyond the holy land's capacity to cope. Both the Saudi Government and people have willingly accepted the added responsibility. It is part of our fate that we should serve the holy places. We told Iran we cannot cope with this number—not before the required facilities are in place 3 years from now. We would hate for the increasing numbers of pilgrims, having incurred the trouble and travel expenses, to find themselves without the proper accommodation and facilities.

The number of pilgrims has multiplied over the past few years. Preparations have been made to accommodate approximately 2 million pilgrims. The preparations have been undertaken by the private sector, supported by the state. We told the Iranians: Give us a chance to prepare Mecca to receive a greater number of pilgrims than last year. More importantly, the Iranians wanted to depart from the rules of pilgrimage, which is unacceptable not only by us but also by the other Islamic nations. There can be no obscenity during the pilgrimage, and relevant Koranic verses are numerous and known to all Muslims. They have ignored all this. We last saw their irresponsibility during last year's pilgrimage in Mecca. They

wanted to occupy the house of God, and they were thwarted not just by Saudi security forces but also by the pilgrims, who were interested in protecting the holy places.

They had acted irresponsibly before. We had turned a blind eye to some of their antics, including the smuggling of some 90 suitcases full of explosives and bombs, which would have been enough to destroy an entire city. We indulged them to demonstrate our tolerant spirit. Rather than desist from their recklessness and irresponsibility, the Iranians persisted along this route, which is abhorred by the Muslim world.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, where will it all end with Iran?

Answer: I do not know where it will end. We say the spirit of tolerance should not make the Iranians think we are weak. We hope Iran will not act too irresponsibly. We do not want it to test our people's ability to defend themselves. The question is: What does Iran want from all that is happening? Iran has harmed relations not only with us but also with its neighbors and the whole world. We ask Iran: For how long will this war continue—a war that is destroying Muslims and depleting their money? Iran has tested Iraq's defensive strength for more than 8 years. This is a sufficient sign for Iran that it is difficult to penetrate Iraq's defensive strength.

Moreover, Iran has attacked Kuwait and the UAE and struck at our merchant ships. Who benefits from this? Why undermine peace in the region while it is possible to attain coexistence and spare Muslims' blood and money? Iran has tried many times to undermine security in the Gulf region, the Arabian peninsula, and the world. What has Iran gained? Iran has gained nothing. When talking about Iran here, we do not presume that there are no masterminds in Iran, but we want reason and logic to triumph so that peace will prevail in the region. We want the moderate minds to play their role in Iran.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, the Iranian news media are intensifying their campaign against the Saudi ruling family, including the custodian of the two holy mosques. It is a vile media campaign. What is the opinion of the custodian of the two holy mosques?

Answer: We do not care much about this. We are against the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran. We believe that there are divine teachings on pilgrimage. Pilgrimage is a ritual and has nothing to do with raised placards or uttered slogans or abuse, nor is it occupation of the holy mosque or murder of innocent pilgrims. We support the sparing of Muslim blood, but Iran has an opposite viewpoint. Hence, when we contradict the Iranian viewpoint, their news media abuse us, our government, and our people. We do not care about this.

This abuse has increased our strength. So, let them abuse us. We adhere to our principles, ethics, and people, supported by the Arab and Islamic peoples who realize the motives behind this media intransigence and know its dimensions. We will not take the trouble of replying to it. The funds spent on war, including media campaigns, would be better spent on our peoples' needs. Their abuse will only increase our divine reward and forgiveness and will not harm us. Our country had faced such things, and every time it has emerged stronger. We are used to this, and hardships have strengthened our country.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, some people used to criticize your agricultural and industrial plans. Has this criticism been proved to be to the contrary?

Answer: Before the discovery of oil, the Kingdom had nothing but Islam and its care for the teachings of Islam and the tradition of the prophet. Our country was a desert, but it was rich by its Islamic wealth. When the rainy season was good, life was easy, and the less rain we had the more difficult life became, but Islam and its teachings remained strong. This is the life our country led. The late King 'Abd al-'Aziz used to visit the houses of the poor families to give them what he had when money was very scarce at that time. I tell you this story just to explain the beginnings of our country.

I remember a story that one night King 'Abd al-'Aziz visited an old woman's house without identifying himself, but when the woman knew he was King 'Abd al-'Aziz she told him: I beseech Almighty God to open the treasures of the earth to your country. At the time, King 'Abd al-'Aziz interpreted this to mean heavy rains that will eventually give fruits. However, what happened was that oil was discovered in our country. It is just a story, indicating that development in our country began with the discovery of oil. Our country has changed a lot.

What we have safeguarded is our country's Islamic identity. This is something we take care of. We spent much money on development from the three agricultural, industrial, and real estate funds. When we decided to spend money for development, we believed the Saudi people to have a productive nature and that they could create agriculture and industry and consequently have a good future. If our belief were to come true, then everything would be good; otherwise, the money that was spent by the three funds would be considered an important part of a well-studied plan whose objective was to distribute wealth. These funds were distributed to the citizens. If they succeed in achieving our objectives, then this is good, and if they do not succeed then they have already been given the money and they must find another way of production.

What happened is that the Saudi people, of whom I am greatly proud, have achieved the state's objectives. Our agricultural production has increased to the point that it

exceeds our consumption. In fact, we exported some of this production to the USSR and to African states. Our production has increased very greatly. Our production of wheat has reached more than 2 million tonnes in contrast to the 3,000 tonnes that were produced by traditional methods at the beginning of the oil discovery, while our consumption was approximately 700,000 tonnes. We have very huge figures in the industrial and agricultural fields. As I told you, I am proud of our people because they have achieved the state's objectives. Of course, we will continue to support our people to achieve the aspired objectives. We will spare no efforts as long as our people's productivity serves our consumption and exports.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, your country is developing and growing industrially, economically, and socially. Do you not believe that this will raise some troubles from those who envy us?

Answer: Saudi Arabia has good relations with several states. We do not interfere in anyone's affairs. We have been able to create a distinguished atmosphere of international relations. We say that Saudi Arabia does not pay attention to those who try to insult it because it is a state that adheres to its principles and to its successful domestic plans. I repeat here that I am very proud of the distinguished Saudi mentality. I do not say this because I am a Saudi citizen. I am proud of the tangible results on all levels. I say it from the position of the one who is aware of this country's affairs, which enjoy peace and security, and from the position of the one who has the honor of safeguarding its Islamic religion. The progress of the king might create some grudges. However, this will not affect us because our people are strong inside their cohesive domestic front.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, you say there are no troubles on Saudi Arabia's domestic front. Why?

Answer: Security here is being run well. Everyone here enjoys care unless he violates his duties as a citizen and the rules of social relations. The judiciary goes through three legal stages. Only God is perfect. Here, I can say that my role and that of the government apparatus, including the governors, is neutral toward the people's interests. We govern through Islamic law. We implement the provisions of Islamic law, but we are pleased if people resolve their disputes instead of going to court. Therefore, we solve many problems among people unless they insist that their cases go through the judiciary, which is run by reputable people. My role is a neutral one. I do not defend any group against another group. All people are equal to me. This is also the government's policy. Citizens enjoy and talk about security. Our country enjoys stability and justice. At the same time, we know that only God is perfect.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, will you please brief us on your recent visit to Al-Qasim?

Answer: I visited that area 7 years ago and I returned a short time ago. I had heard much about what was achieved by the government organs and about the progress there on both the official and popular levels. But when I inspected the area and saw the development projects there, I discovered that what I saw was much more than I had heard. The productive Saudi hands have achieved that progress there. There are many cultural facilities, which reflect government spending on all cities. I was surprised by the growth I saw there. It is an example that should be followed by other cities. The government should improve other cities and villages. Road networks strongly link them, surpassing their kind in many other countries. We are conducting a demographic survey in Saudi Arabia. We believe that Saudi Arabia has approximately 12-13 million inhabitants. However, we should know the true figure to organize spending in accordance with the country's income.

Once again, I say I was pleased by the progress in that area, and I am proud of the Saudi mentality.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, it is said that Saudi Arabia has other wealth, which may surpass its oil revenues. Is this true?

Answer: Yes. Saudi Arabia has a huge oil reservoir and can produce about 15 million barrels per day for the next 200 years. Reports on Saudi oil wealth reflect God's generosity to us. Our people thank God for His generosity. In addition to its huge oil reservoir, Saudi Arabia has other wealth, which is being invested now. However, our people should thank God for this prosperity. It may be said that God granted us all this natural wealth because we are serving the two holy mosques.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, do you think oil will continue to be more important for Saudi Arabia than any other resource?

Answer: We will continue to be interested in this source of wealth which has changed our lives. What is important is that the world should conserve it. We believe that maintaining a production ceiling through OPEC means maintaining prevailing prices, which may be inclined to rise if the production ceiling is maintained. We have learned that there are non-OPEC countries that want to coordinate with OPEC in maintaining a ceiling for world oil production so that prices can be maintained. A price war means an increase in production, which in turn will lead to diminished revenues. In both cases the producing countries will not benefit from increased production as long as the financial dividends are the same.

It is better to conserve the oil in the ground while having a respectable income. It is said that some OPEC member states violate the production quota allocated to them, and I cannot confirm that. However, let us be realistic. Increased production by any state is an open increase, for such increased production is purchased by companies that have boards of directors and shareholders. All

those who trade with these companies are known to the shareholders and boards of directors. Thus an action by any state in exceeding its production quota is not secret, for such increased production becomes known. Therefore we in Saudi Arabia abide by the production quota allocated to us by OPEC. Exceeding production quotas combined with falling prices will not benefit the oil producing countries. I notice that prices have recently risen. I believe prices will rise even more if we maintain the production ceiling, and if we succeed in making non-OPEC members understand the usefulness of fixing production so that better prices can be obtained and the oil wealth of these states can be conserved.

Question: Custodian of the two holy mosques, how was it that your country was supplied with missiles from China when the world knows that the Kingdom turns to the West and not to the East?

Answer: The direction to which our country turns is determined by our national interests. We are not on the side of anyone, we merely follow our interests. We have obtained these Chinese missiles. It was reported that they carry nuclear warheads or chemical substances. It is necessary to emphasize that these missiles are defensive and do not carry any nuclear warheads as has been reported. The purpose of these missiles is to strengthen Saudi Arabia's defensive power, and will be used if our country is subjected to any threat. I reiterate: I hope we will not be compelled to use this defensive power, because we also know that area peoples develop through peace more than they develop through war. The countries of the region want to live in peace and security. However, if we are compelled to use our defensive power then that cannot be helped.

I look forward to the day when the Iraq-Iran war ends and peace is established among the states of the region. I also look forward to the day when the Palestinian uprising will bear fruit so that the world will devote itself to peace, and the Palestinian people are given the right to live in their homeland.

U.S. Request To Inspect Missiles Rejected
NC2904151588 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Manama, April 29 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has rejected a U.S. request to inspect its Chinese surface-to-surface missiles to assure they do not carry nuclear or chemical warheads, according to the Saudi defense minister.

But Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in an interview with the Lebanese weekly AL-SAYYAD to be published Saturday, affirmed that the "Chinese missiles are not nuclear devices and the Saudi Kingdom opposes the acquisition of nuclear arms."

Saudi Arabia buys arms from the United States on the sole condition that the materiel not be resold to a third country, "but everything else is our affair," Prince Sultan told the weekly.

"The Americans informed us of their desire to inspect the missiles to assure they were not equipped with nuclear or chemical charges," he said. "We replied that they would never be allowed to do it."

He did not give the date of the U.S. request.

On relations between Riyadh and Washington, Prince Sultan said "many people think that we're dependent on the United States for arms, and even say we're subservient to American policy. (...) The acquisition of Chinese missiles proves the opposite."

The defense minister said the Chinese CSS-2 missiles were delivered and deployed two years ago. The missiles, with a range of 3,000 kilometers (nearly 2,000 miles) are capable of carrying nuclear warheads, but Riyadh has repeatedly insisted that it does not plan to use them as nuclear arms.

Asked about Israeli threats to carry out a pre-emptive strike on the missiles sites, Prince Sultan replied: "Someone who wants to strike does not make threats." Saudi Arabian territory was vast, he said, adding that Israel could "attack in different places and our duty is to repel the aggression."

Israel's claims that it was defending itself meant Saudi Arabia, too, was acting in self-defense, the minister said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, following the announcement of the missile purchase last month, declared that "Israel has proved in the past that it is not accustomed to waiting for a potential danger to become an actual one."

Interior Minister on Break With Iran, Hajj
*LD021059 Kuwait KUNA in English 0955 GMT
2 May 88*

[Text] Kuwait, May 2 (KUNA)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said that severing diplomatic relations with Iran was taken to deprive miscreants of any opportunity to disturb internal peace.

In an interview published by AL-SIYASAH daily here today, the minister disclosed that Iran had misused its diplomatic pouches "but we have overlooked this violation to give Iran another chance to show good will. Unfortunately it has shown ingratitude instead."

When asked if true were the reports about the Iranian Embassy being an arsenal, the minister ruled out this possibility and clarified that the decision to cut ties with Tehran was taken due to its violation of diplomatic norms that regulate relations between nations.

Commenting on Iran's announcement defying the decision regulating number of persons due to perform pilgrimage this season, Prince Nayif said the decision fixing number of Iranian pilgrims at 45,000 was taken by the Islamic countries and Saudi Arabia had agreed to it and will implement it as such. He affirmed that not a single person over this number will be allowed to the Kingdom, adding "Iran should listen to reason and abide by the decision and should not expect a special treatment different from other Islamic nations whose population is larger than that of Iran."

Answering another question on circumstances that do not help meet the Iranian request to send 150,000 pilgrims, the minister said the holy city of Mecca can no longer receive huge masses of pilgrims every season due to limited public utilities, health, transportation and accommodation facilities.

He clarified that the present conditions in the city do not help make visit of the pilgrims comfortable especially when around 2.2 million persons flock to the city during the pilgrimage period in addition to its 1.2 million inhabitants.

When asked what his government plans to do if the Iranians fly into Saudi Arabia in civilian planes without permission, the minister said his government was very adamant in its position and will not allow these planes to land without permission and will force them to go back.

The minister also said that Saudi security forces will stop any demonstration to be staged by the Iranians as they did last year "the whole world has watched the Iranian crime the first in the history of the sacred shrines. We will not allow them to do this again. Any violation of hajj rituals will be quelled by force."

Prince Nayif declared that the Iranians had tried to "infiltrate into the internal front and had succeeded in deceiving some Saudi youths who repented and asked for forgiveness," and he denied that his government has ever blacked out any unpleasant event that ever took place in his country.

Envoy to Paris Discusses Iranian Relations
*JN292029 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1735 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Interview with Ambassador in Paris Shaykh Jamil al-Hujaylan by Antoine Nawfal carried within the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Nawfal] Your Excellency the ambassador, seldom does the Kingdom resort to severing relations with a country or regime. Things must have reached their limit before the Kingdom resorted to severing relations with Iran. What made things reach this limit?

[Al-Hujaylan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Nawfal, you must have noticed that all kinds of media have reported on this issue in an unprecedented and intensive manner. This is not because the severing of diplomatic relations between two countries is a major event, especially since we are living amid many major events, but because as you have just said the decision to sever relations came from a country known for its calm, balance, and self-restraint, a country which took the initiative to sever diplomatic relations.

It is probably useful to learn that taking the initiative to sever relations with any country has never been the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, no matter how intense the differences are. It is also good to learn that this is the first time in the history of Saudi Arabia that it has taken the initiative to sever diplomatic relations with another country. As you have just said, there must be reasons which led to such a decision. As a matter of fact, we have used every means of dialogue with the Iranian Government. I am in a position that allows me to say that many means were employed to convince them that their stand should be a reasonable one, but we have not been successful. This is a long subject to be discussed.

Recently, all signs of aggressive intentions on the part of the Tehran rulers against the Kingdom emerged. We were patient. We held our temper and left things to God on the basis that the Iranians might discover they were wrong and hence reconsider their stand. However, we did not reach this result. There are many issues on the regional level: Their behavior has always exposed the region to a grave danger. The second issue is their bilateral relations with the region's Gulf states and their repeated attacks against some of these states. Their propaganda stand toward the Kingdom was regrettably aggressive and contrary to all norms, whether their attacks were on the Kingdom's officials or on the history of the Kingdom and the Kingdom's duties as an Arab and Islamic country.

Their assertion of premeditated intentions to repeat their attempts that caused a major tragedy in the previous pilgrimage season have become obvious. At a time when we deal with the pilgrimage issue with a great degree of calm and spirituality, they are employing another method to deal with this subject. With all means they try to make the pilgrimage season a season for political conflicts. This we did not, and never will, accept. If, as you have said, things reach their limit, you cannot avoid the consequences. As I said, we have never found ourselves in a position, such as our position these days, to make such a decision. I think all the blame should be directed against the regime in Tehran. [passage omitted]

[Nawfal] It was expected that Iran would level all sorts of accusations against Saudi Arabia, and it did so. Some of these accusations are: Saudi Arabia is preventing Iranian Muslims from performing the pilgrimage, and that the

Kingdom wants to give further facilities to the Americans so they can launch their operations against Iran from there. What is the answer to these accusations?

[Al-Hujaylan] The answer to these accusations follow: Regarding the prevention of the pilgrimage, this is out of the question. No Muslim heading for the house of God to perform pilgrimage can be prevented from doing so. But if the pilgrim comes in pilgrimage clothes to carry out an aggressive action unrelated to the sacred meaning of pilgrimage and thus endangers the pilgrims, then this is not acceptable. This is a principled stand as far as Saudi Arabia is concerned.

As for their accusations that we want to give further facilities to the Americans, we have become accustomed to these accusations. As you know, brother Nawfal, these are old accusations overtaken by time. For more than 30 years, Saudi Arabia has been the target of various attacks on several occasions. But through the logical approach you know we follow and through the calm which distinguishes the policy of Saudi Arabia, we did not care for these matters because we are confident of our policy, ethics, and our adherence to our agreements and commitments. For this reason, we consider the propaganda in Iran regarding U.S.-Saudi cooperation to prepare for an attack against them as nonsense and we do not heed it. [passage omitted]

Iranian Accusations Termed 'Categorically False'
LD302357 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2325 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Apr (SPA)—Denying what the Iranian news agency claimed tonight to the effect that a U.S. military delegation secretly visited holy Mecca, a responsible source told SPA: We are not surprised at such lies and fabrications from the Khomeyni information media, and we do not give them any weight because we are fully aware that no one in the Islamic world any longer trusts what is issued by the trumpets of the Iranian regime in the form of hatred and venom to misinform the Iranian people about the crimes being committed daily by this regime against Islam and the Muslims.

The source added: This news item is a figment of a sick imagination and is categorically false.

AL-YAWM Says Iran Plays Role of 'Mafia Gangs'
JN011409 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
28 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Our Relations and the Regime of Sponsors of Crime"]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is known for its calm policy and its readiness to maintain ties with other states and peoples. However, when such relations become unfruitful and do not contribute to changing the negative stands adopted by others, then these relations

become worthless. Moreover, when such relations harm the Kingdom and its people and sovereignty, their cancellation becomes a pressing demand.

The Kingdom attempted to establish balanced relations with the Khomeyniites' regime in Tehran. But this regime continued its aggressive behavior and disregard for the simplest diplomatic norms and traditions. It instigated its agents to attack the Saudi Embassy in Tehran, destroying its building and stealing its documents. A Saudi diplomat was martyred, undoubtedly under official Iranian supervision. It is believed the Iranian Embassy in Riyadh and the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah played a role in concocting the crime perpetrated by the Khomeyniite guard in Mecca during last year's pilgrimage season.

It has been confirmed that the Khomeyniites' regime is destructive, based on hostility to man. This regime can only live in an atmosphere of war, murder, hatred, and the kidnapping and killing of innocent people. What is even more dangerous is that the Tehran regime is playing the role of Mafia gangs, the professional pursuit of crime. The difference between the Mafia and the Khomeyniite regime is that the latter's actions are sponsored by embassies and ambassadors who are skilled in lies and suspect behavior and whose task is to spread sedition and utter slander against God's religion and His prophet's mission.

The severance of relations with such an entity as the Khomeyniite regime is a good thing and a step on the sound path. We are not honored by maintaining friendship with a regime whose agents' hands were stained with the blood of both our martyrs and Muslims last year, especially since we gave the Khomeyniites many opportunities although they continued their tyranny and arrogance. All honorable people should sever their relations with the Tehran regime because it is their enemy.

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Besharati Arrives in Dubayy for Talks
*LD011218 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT
1 May 88*

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati heading a delegation arrived in Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Saturday. Besharati is to discuss latest regional developments especially U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, and the Iraqi-imposed war with the UAE officials in Abu Dhabi today.

Regional Issues Discussed

*LD021036 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT
2 May 88*

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—President and ruler of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan Sunday received a message on regional issues and Tehran-Abu Dhabi ties from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati submitted the message in a meeting with Shaykh Zayid in Abu Dhabi where UAE's Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid and Iran's Ambassador to Abu Dhabi Mostafa Haeri-Fumani were also present.

Besharati who is heading a delegation to UAE discussed latest regional developments and bilateral issues with Shaykh Zayid.

The acting foreign minister emphasized that the U.S. which failed to reestablish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran planned to take another revenge on the Islamic Republic and attacked Iran's oil platforms in the Persian Gulf on the pretext that one of its frigates had hit a mine in the waterway. He said: "Our nation is determined to confront U.S. aggression under any conditions."

Besharati stressed the Islamic Republic would continue its friendly relations with the UAE and noted that Iran had always given priority to its relations with its neighbors especially those Arab states in the Persian Gulf, adding that the closer the relations of these states the more secure the peace would be in the region and that there would be no place for big powers' presence.

President Zayid emphasized on Tehran-Abu Dhabi longstanding ties and on the powerful role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in protecting the security in the region and said "your power is ours and Muslims will take pride in your strength."

Shaykh Zayid stressed that the superpowers pursue their own goals in the region and that they would neither do anything in the interest of the nations of the region nor create security in the region. Shaykh Zayid also emphasized that more delegations should shuttle between the two countries and called for consolidation of ties of the Islamic Republic of Iran with other regional states. Besharati earlier met his UAE counterpart and discussed with him issues of mutual interests.

President Addresses Medal Award Ceremony
JN291019 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0706 GMT 29 Apr 88

["Full recording" of speech by President Saddam Husayn at a ceremony in which he was decorated with the People's Medal by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim on behalf of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party Regional Command in Baghdad on 28 April]

[Excerpts] Comrades, brothers, and sisters: With deep and genuine gratitude, just as your decision has been genuine and deep, I have received your generous gift which you call the People's Medal. This stand adopted by you, O dear comrades, is genuine. It was also adopted by the comrade members of the RCC and the regional command and also by the attending brothers and comrades. It will be mentioned in history as much as it will be enhanced through other concepts, achievements, and actions. Foremost among you who undertakes the demand in this regard is Saddam Husayn himself. [passage omitted]

Traditional standards say or suppose Iraq should have a different status. Many people were deluded by this assumption. Therefore, they were surprised by your scientific achievements, your work, your confrontation of economic and financial difficulties, your political and cultural capabilities, and the performance of your valiant sons and brothers on the battlefield.

In general, as it goes on throughout the years, war undermines construction whether in the social, cultural, or economic fields, as well as in other areas. But if the people score a qualitative increase in their moral, scientific, cultural, and intellectual weight during wartime, then this will be a new situation. I do not say this is a situation only confined to Iraqis but it is a new situation that conforms with Iraq's status and weight in history as compared to the status and weight of other nations in those phases of history. This explains to us why in the 8th year of war Iraq's ability is greater and why Iraq's performance is better and more orderly. It also explains why Iraq's dealing with science and technology on and away from the battlefields is better and more advanced than what it was in the 1st, 2d, and 3d year of war. Moreover, the Iraqis' solidarity is deeper now than it was in the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th year of war.

This is because in the 1st year of war, Iraqis fought in the way you know amid the situation experienced by Iraq 8 years earlier. If we had maintained that situation and had not developed in leaps and bounds instead of in small steps, then our situation might have been different from our current situation both on the battlefields and in the general status. But every year we find the Iraqi standing higher than the construction that deserved his martyrdom, fighting, and solidarity in the 1st year. This Iraqi finds that there are higher achievements and concepts in all aspects of life present before him. Hence, a

better situation prompts the Iraqi to develop a higher inner capability and to have more solid principles and a deeper faith in his conscience.

On the other hand, the Iranian, even as far as the relative standards are concerned, finds that in the 1st year of war there were much more and better things before him in his own country than in his current situation. Based on this, we always said time will favor Iraq. This basic law made us conclude earlier that the time on which the Khomeyniites were wagering will favor Iraq and that time will undermine Iran. The Iranian ranks will collapse, God willing.

It goes without saying I am telling you in such a meeting that our optimism over the future is unlimited and that our preparedness to defend values, and principles, as well as our country will improve with God's help. I also tell you that at each peak we reach we will promote ourselves and our capabilities to a higher peak in military, economic, social, cultural, and other fields. We have full and deep confidence that all Iraqis, including the attending comrades and brothers, deserve to be honored. We are also confident that they are highly capable and that they can attain all the achievements that the peoples—who aspire for safeguarding their honor, security, and principles—are dreaming. All Iraqis can also increase the people's capabilities in order to improve their conditions. Once again, I thank you, my comrades and brothers. I wish success, victory, and further pride to you, to your brothers, and to your sons fighting on the battlefields. Thank you. [applause]

Foreign Minister on Al-Faw Battle, UN Resolution
JN291711 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
27 Apr 88 p 37

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Jihad Fadil in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] The first AL-QABAS question to His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi foreign minister, was the following: How do you assess Iraq's victory in the Al-Faw sector and its impact on the future of the war? Does Iraq expect a new Iranian aggression against it or any other country in the region after the liberation of Al-Faw? Do you think Iran will now be more responsive to the Iraqi peace offer? When did Iraq draw up the plan to recapture Al-Faw and why was it implemented at this time in particular?

Tariq 'Aziz told AL-QABAS: The Iraqi Armed Forces' liberation of Al-Faw was one of the most important military accomplishments in the history of the war between Iraq and Iran. From the military viewpoint—though I am not an expert in this field—this battle was one of the distinguished battles in terms of planning, training, preparation, the element of surprise, and implementation. The battle lasted only 35 hours from the time it started to the time the last Iranian soldier was expelled and the Iranian presence was totally destroyed. This is a

record time for a battle of this type which was waged on terrain known to be of a very complicated topography and in positions where the Iranians had entrenched themselves for over 2 years. They set up barriers, ramparts, trenches, and bridges which they thought would repulse any attack, or at least make any such an attack difficult taking weeks or perhaps months. The speed of accomplishment reflected the high level of the other aspects I mentioned, that is, planning, training, preparation, and the element of surprise, all of which were perfectly carried out.

From a military standpoint, this accomplishment was the most important military page in the history of the war for several years. As you know, the Iranians succeeded in February 1986 in crossing the Shatt al-Arab and occupying this area. That occupation was the most serious Iranian occupation of any part of Iraq. The Iranian forces are occupying other parts in the southern and northern sectors, as is known, but this occupation was the most serious from the military and strategic standpoints in general. Therefore, the expulsion of the Iranians from this occupied part is, from the military standpoint, considered a destruction of the backbone of the Iranian occupation of the Iraqi territories and cogent proof that the Iraqi Armed Forces are capable, when they decided to do so, of expelling the Iranian invaders from every inch of the Iraqi territories they are occupying. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS said: Resolution 598 in itself contains the mechanism for its implementation. This resolution is integrated in its paragraphs and clauses. What is then the use of the presence of a plan called the UN secretary general's plan to implement this resolution? Do you think that such a plan helps reach a quick solution to the crisis or, on the contrary, helps Iran to evade the resolution and its implementation?

The minister said: The basis of what the Security Council decided was the resolution itself. This resolution, as I have said, is an integrated plan. The one who seeks peace cannot but begin to implement the resolution as it is. Is there a reason for a plan by the secretary general? Perhaps, because the resolution also requires a program, say an executive program. The resolution talks about a cease-fire and withdrawal. There must be a program specifying the cease-fire and the time to begin and end the withdrawal as well as the date of the arrival of the UN observer forces and the way these forces can perform their duties, and other such practical requirements. What was termed the secretary general's plan was a structure void of times and details. It was drawn up by the secretary general in August, but agreement is being reached between him and the two parties to fill the void. We here accepted this structure in principle, but thus far it does not include any details, as I have told you.

The Iranians did not accept Security Council Resolution 598. Knowing that an explicit disapproval of the resolution would prompt the council to impose sanctions on

them, the Iranians began to resort to all methods to avoid abidance by the resolution on the one hand, and to escape from a sanctions resolution on the other. Therefore, they held fast to what was termed the secretary general's plan and they began to talk about their acceptance of it. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS: Your Excellency, I would like to ask you a frank question. What are the true U.S. and USSR stands toward the Gulf war? some people say that Iraq's friend in this war, the USSR, does not exercise its friendship as it should, and that Iran's enemy, the United States, does not exercise its hostility as it should. Neither the friend exercised its friendship with you, nor the enemy exercised its hostility against your enemy?

Tariq 'Aziz said: There is a lot that can be said about the international stand in general, and the two superpowers' stands in particular. Almost 8 years have passed in this war. This long period indicates that the two superpowers show indifference toward the continuation of the war. Practically speaking, the Iranian regime would not have been able to continue this war if there had not been carelessness by the effective powers in this world, particularly the two superpowers. There is another fact; namely, Iran cannot continue the war with its intrinsic powers. It can reject peace. No one can force it to accept peace.

However, it cannot continue the war with its intrinsic powers, particularly a large-scale war. We are not discussing a limited armed conflict, but a large-scale war that is raging on 1,000 km on the ground, in addition to the war at sea and in the air whose continuation requires very huge resources. How has Iran obtained the funds to finance its war machine for 8 years? Iran sells its oil. Who buys the oil? Those who buy the oil are the industrial world powers in the East and in the West. Therefore, these powers have contributed to financing the Iranian war machine by continuing to deal with Iran through buying Iranian oil.

On the other hand, Iran does not produce weapons with which it fights, and if it produced weapons, then it has produced a very small percentage of its military requirements. It is not waging war with swords and arrows, but with sophisticated equipment. Who supplied Iran with this huge quantity of military ammunition and equipment? The industrial states in the West and the East through direct means, through the black market, and through a third party. This is the bitter fact. If the effective powers in the world had not been careless or if they had not implicitly agreed on the continuation of the war, Iran would not have been able to continue the war.

However, the war reached a point where it began to threaten the interests of the two superpowers, particularly in 1987, and where they might find themselves in a confrontation against each other—a confrontation that they do not want and at a time when they are trying to establish new relations between them. In light of this,

UN Security Council Resolution 598, with its binding nature, has become possible after several months of work by the UN Security Council's five permanent member states. This work began at the end of January and continued until June. Approximately 4 months of intensified contacts were held among the five member states until it was possible to reach an agreement among them on the basic elements of the resolution. Then, the resolution was issued.

After the resolution was issued, a new Soviet stand emerged. The USSR has always expressed support for ending the war. However, after the resolution was issued it was clear that Iran would not accept it because it had exerted intensified efforts to prevent the issuance of the resolution, and the Soviets knew this. They knew that Iran contracted them in an attempt to prevent the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. Therefore, Iran's rejection of the resolution after it was issued is something clear. Here, the USSR has not agreed with us that the UN Security Council should move to the phase of sanctions. It has its own interpretations of the situation with which we do not agree.

We believe a resolution imposing sanctions is necessary not because we seek to avenge Iran, but to achieve what should have been achieved before regarding imposing an arms embargo against Iran to prevent it from carrying out its aggressive plan. Iran might continue to be hostile, have evil intentions, or be determined not to accept peace. Well, we might not be able to change the nature of this abnormal, criminal, hostile regime, but we should decrease its ability to achieve its evil objectives. We still hope that the USSR will agree with this sound analysis and approve sanctions. If this happens, then we believe the UN Security Council will be able to move to this stage to which it should have moved last August. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Leads Delegation to Brazil 30 Apr
JN301212 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad for Brazil today on a visit that will last several days. The foreign minister is leading the Arab seven-member committee to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory to a number of the capitals of the UN Security Council member states. The delegation comprises PLO representative 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Clovis Maqsud, head of the Arab League office in New York.

Tariq 'Aziz told INA that he will hold talks with Brazilian officials on bilateral cooperation relations and their development.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,161

JN291754 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,161 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. To destroy the aggressor Iranian regime's oil supplies which it uses to carry out aggression against our country and to prolong the war, our Air Force carried out two effective, accurate hits on two large maritime targets off the Iranian coast last night. After carrying out these two missions, our planes returned safely to base. Praise be to God.
2. Our helicopter gunships carried out 26 combat missions in the sectors of operations through which they inflicted new losses on the aggressors. Then, they returned safely to base. Praise be to God.
3. Six scoundrels were killed, two vehicles were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.
4. Three enemy soldiers were killed and an infantry position was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, and a single-barreled machine gun was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.
5. A single-barreled machinegun and two various positions were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris. A drone was downed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. At 1920 [1520 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the city of Basra with long-range artillery. We reiterated our warning, which was included in our communique last night, that such crimes will not go without harsh punishment, some of which the Iranian rulers have already received, at the appropriate time. Their cries and screams will be of no use.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 April 1988

Communique No 3,162

JN301717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,162 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Two enemy soldiers were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

2. One large vehicle was burned and destroyed and its occupants were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah and one tubular launcher and one enemy vehicle were destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

3. Escaping from the Iranian regime's terrorism, a number of Iranian soldiers took refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 April 1988

Spokesman Denies Shelling

JN301810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations that Iraqi artillery shelled the city of Abadan today. In a statement this evening, the spokesman said that the Iranian rulers' claims are lies and represent a desperate attempt to justify their crimes against Iraq's peaceful cities and villages and its innocent inhabitants.

The military spokesman added it is better for the Iranian regime to benefit from the opportunity, which Iraq has granted to them and which was explained in a statement by the Iraqi military spokesman on 20 April, and to abandon their exposed and adolescent tricks.

Communique No 3,163

JN011730 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 May 88

[Communique No 3,163 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces extend their warmest congratulations to their unique leader, Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, God preserve him, on glorious Labor Day. They also congratulate our great people and our heroic working class, which are providing our Armed Forces with brave men and exerting efforts to build the national economy and support the war effort. Our Armed Forces beseech Almighty God to preserve the people's leader and continue to grant us victory and more achievements that will uphold our country and nation. God responds to our calls. The following is our units' activities for last night and today:

1. One shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed and two vehicles, one of them carrying ammunition, were burned and destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector and three enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

2. A brave force from one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan raided enemy positions opposite it, killing five scoundrels and destroying several infantry positions and one four-barreled machinegun. Then the force returned safely to its base. God be praised.

3. One enemy shelter was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris and one ammunition dump was blown up on the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 May 1988

Rabin Seeks 'Territorial Compromise' for Peace
TA0205123888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated this morning that he does not want to impose Israeli sovereignty on all of mandatory Eretz Yisra'el. He noted that a territorial compromise should be reached with Jordan according to which areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza would be included in a Jordanian-Palestinian state. Minister Rabin was addressing students at the Ramat Hasharon comprehensive high school. Our correspondent Meron Tzur brings excerpts of Rabin's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Tzur] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not believe that a unique Jewish state that is not racist can exist if the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza form part of its territory. Here is what he says consequently:

[Rabin] I do not want to impose Israeli sovereignty on all areas of mandatory Eretz Yisra'el, because this would mean that 2.2 million Arabs would be pitted against 3.5 million Jews.

I am against racism. I therefore believe that those who live under Israeli sovereignty, regardless of whether they are Jewish or not, should enjoy all the civil rights of any Israeli citizen.

[Tzur] The defense minister said that if the population of the territories were to be included within Israel's territory, it would have the capacity to tip the scales. That is why he is against applying Israeli sovereignty to the territories and against a return to the 1967 borders.

[Rabin] I am in favor of peace with Jordan and with the Palestinians living in the territories. I am in favor of bringing about the coexistence of two states: the State of Israel as a Jewish state with a worldwide Jewish orientation, where non-Jews also live and enjoy full civil rights; east of this state, including east of the Jordan River, one sovereign Jordanian-Palestinian state containing considerable parts of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, which would include at least 1 million of the inhabitants of the territories.

[Tzur] Nevertheless, Rabin said, the security border must be clear-cut in order to guarantee Israel's security.

[Rabin] Security changes, the main point of which is Israel's defense line along the Jordan River backed by settlements and the IDF—this is what I consider the security issue. I want to prevent and deter war and to defend our state from outside attacks, not in the vicinity of 'Imanu'el or Bet El, but along the best defensible confrontation line.

[Tzur] Mr Rabin wants a peaceful solution between Israel on the one hand and Jordan and the Palestinians on the other.

[Rabin] We should be willing to compromise for the sake of peace and in order to maintain the Jewish uniqueness of the State of Israel, not through boundaries, but through its way of life. This is what I consider the Labor movement's way. This is what I am willing to do and even what I pray for. [end recording]

Rabin on PLO-Syria Rapprochement Ramifications
TA0105184788 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 May 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dani Levi; date and place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Levi] Mr Minister, does the rapprochement between 'Arafat and Al-Asad mean the beginning of a new phase in terrorist attacks against Israel?

[Rabin] The rapprochement between 'Arafat's PLO and Syria began in the PNC convention in Algiers, when the organizations of Hawatimah and Habash joined 'Arafat's PLO at the cost of severing the dialogue with Jordan and cooling off contacts with Egypt. 'Arafat always strove to resume relations with Syria. His meeting with Al-Asad, without being certain of all its results, probably provides a new basis for the improvement of their relations. I do not think anything pertaining to terrorist attacks from Lebanon will be greatly affected, although there may be a certain impact. I believe it will take time for us to detect signs of it, but such an impact should not be ruled out.

[Levi] Could this rapprochement have an adverse affect on the Soviet Union's attitude toward the Shultz initiative?

[Rabin] In my opinion, after the Soviet Union saw that Shultz failed to get a positive answer from Jordan, Israel, and Egypt, it has felt much more self-confident and has taken more interest in its customers, namely Syria and the PLO. I think this casts serious doubts on the chances of the Shultz initiative.

[Levi] Meaning?

[Rabin] Doubts about whether it will materialize at all.

[Levi] Mr Minister, it has recently been reported that various terrorist headquarters, such as that of Jibril's organization, have moved from Tunis to Damascus. Is Syria thus becoming a center of terrorist headquarters and bases operating against Israel?

[Rabin] For the time being, not one headquarters whatsoever has moved from Tunis to Damascus or to Syria in general. Jibril's headquarters has always been in Syria, near Damascus. The headquarters of all the pro-Syrian terrorist organizations are either in Syria or in Lebanese areas under Syria's military control. None of the pro-'Arafat organizations within the PLO have moved its headquarters from Tunis and Baghdad to Syrian territory.

[Levi] Do you foresee such a development in the wake of the latest rapprochement between 'Arafat and Al-Asad?

[Rabin] We will wait and see. I think the security policy adopted by the Israeli Cabinet in January 1985, and carried out by the IDF in May-June 1985, has proved and continues to prove itself. In my opinion, it contains the answer to terrorism from Lebanon. Occasionally, the modus operandi has to be adapted to the size of the troops and the operating theater of the terrorist operations.

All in all, however, one must remember that it has been 3 years since the IDF completed its redeployment according to the Israeli Cabinet decision, and no Israeli civilians have been killed as a result of terrorist operations. Thirty-four IDF soldiers have been killed, two have been kidnapped by Hizballah, and an Air Force navigator is being held by Amal. This is a painful price, but all in all the objective has been achieved. In the future, we will have to ensure that the objective is attained at a less painful cost.

[Levi] The modus operandi will not change despite the recent increase in the number of infiltration attempts into Israel?

[Rabin] I said the policy has not changed. As for the modus operandi, it is occasionally adjusted in accordance with our policy. To wit, with the exception of the hang glider attack, no terrorist squad has penetrated Israel without getting killed in the process.

[Levi] Mr Minister, do you consider Syria responsible for the latest infiltration attempts into Israeli territory?

[Rabin] Syria helps the terrorist bodies that have been trying to infiltrate Israel. The last four attempts in the eastern sector of our border with Lebanon were all carried out by pro-Syrian, not pro-'Arafat, elements within the PLO. These elements obviously rely on their headquarters in Syria and on the bases in Lebanese areas controlled by the Syrian Army. Syria is to a certain extent responsible, although it is not directly responsible for the operations which are being carried out by the pro-Syrian organizations within the PLO.

[Levi] Mr Minister, do you see either a direct or an indirect link between the infiltration attempts into Israel and the calm prevailing in the territories recently?

[Rabin] From the end of December and the beginning of January, a factions of the Palestinian terrorist organizations have been trying very hard to instigate terrorism from outside Israel's boundaries—particularly from Egypt, but also from Jordan—against targets inside Israel. We are beginning to see the results of some of these efforts, and I do not think this has anything to do with the recent calm. Rather, it has to do with the desire of the PLO terrorist organizations to add fuel to the fire which has begun dying down in the territories. [passage omitted]

IDF's Peled on Infiltration Attempts in North

TA2904190388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1715 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Interview with Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky, in Peled's office; date not given—video-taped]

[Text] [Shlonsky] What conclusions have you drawn from the latest incidents on Mount Hermon and the growing incidence of terrorist infiltrations? Do you think we are entering a new era requiring new methods to protect the northern border and the settlements there?

[Peled] I would not hurry to say that we are on the brink of a new age. I believe that this phrase carries serious connotations. Nevertheless, I am sure that we have recently—and by that I mean the past 2 or 3 weeks—witnessed a real increase in the attempts by Palestinian terrorist squads to penetrate into Israel. The last four squads focused their activity on the eastern front, or the slopes of Mount Hermon.

It seems to me that the only thing that can be concluded with any degree of certainty is that there has been a rise in the intensity of the penetration attempts.

[Shlonsky] Could you speculate on the reason for this?

[Peled] Some people have linked this to the Palestinian organizations' desire to demonstrate an active participation in events in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This could be the reason. I, however, would hesitate to say that this is the only reason. If we take the 1970's as an example, when the territories were very, very quiet, we will see that activity in the north was nonetheless quite intense. Actually, my answer to your question is that the north has for years been the target of attacks by the terrorist organizations located inside Lebanon.

[Shlonsky] Would you say that the Syrians are helping the terrorist squads reach the defense fence? We know that in any case they must cross Syrian-controlled areas when they penetrate through Mount Hermon.

[Peled] I cannot at the moment point a finger and state emphatically that this activity receives Syrian assistance. Without a doubt, however, the squads that have operated recently arrived via Syrian-controlled territory. This is a fact. Besides, I believe that even if there was no active Syrian participation in this type of activity, it is inconceivable that any member of the Syrian leadership regrets this activity for one moment, or would take any action to abort it.

[Shlonsky] Three years have passed since the pullout from Lebanon. In view of the latest events, would you consider a change in the defense concept regarding the security strip, perhaps in the form of broadening or reinforcing it?

[Peled] I would never contemplate expanding the security zone or deploying more troops. I would say that the past 3 years have proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, to me at least, that the security strip fulfills all the hopes we had pinned on it. After 3 years, however, we are obligated to adapt the security strip and the modus operandi in this area, including the deployment of units, to the changing conditions of the security strip and the area adjacent to its northern and western borders. In fact, we have been doing just that over the past 2 years. We must adjust our activity to the changing factors in the field. Yet we should not effect any fundamental changes in the form of expansion or anything of the sort.

'Military Source' Denies Mining in Tyre Area
TA0105185288 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1800 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] A military source has denied reports that the Israeli Navy laid mines in the Tyre area. According to the source, the mines were laid by Hizballah.

2 SLA Soldiers Killed in Security Strip 29 Apr
TA2904144988 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1400 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Two South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were killed today when a mine exploded under the armored vehicle they were driving. The incident occurred on a side trail in the village of Shaqif al-Nahl in the security strip.

SLA Soldiers Repel 'Terrorist' Attack 2 May
TA0205081888 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0700 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers repelled an attempted terrorist attack on a position on the border of the security zone this morning.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorists used mortar fire and RPG's, but their assault was repelled by the SLA soldiers' fire. UN officers reported that SLA artillery positions fired at terrorist positions north of the security zone.

Syria-PLO Reconciliation Termed 'Temporary'
JN291217 *Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World*
1335 GMT 28 Apr 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Honorable listeners. Contrary to what some observers say, the Syrian-'Arafat reconciliation has neither diminished nor increased the possibilities of a comprehensive Middle East settlement or the possibilities of the success of the Shultz Middle East peace plan because of the following:

1. 'Arafat's organization declared from the beginning its opposition to the Shultz plan. Although Syria has played the game of not officially declaring its rejection of the

plan, the signs and semi-official statements that came from Damascus and its media left no doubt as to the direction in which the winds of Damascus blow.

2. 'Arafat's organization is of no consideration for Israel and its principled stand. The present Israeli Government, like its predecessors, believes that because of its charter, nature, and bloody and black record the PLO cannot be a party in any peace forum. Indeed, the presence of the PLO is contrary to coexistence and peace. Thus 'Arafat's organization will continue to be of no consideration for Israel regardless of that organization's reconciliations or quarrels with Arab leaders, and regardless of whether the PLO moves from one square to another on the Arab chessboard.

In light of the above facts, the true repercussions of the Syrian-'Arafat reconciliation will be primarily reflected upon inter-Arab relations and on the Arab chessboard.

If there is anyone among the important rulers and fronts who should reconsider their calculations, then the main candidates are King Husayn of Jordan, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and the warring forces in Lebanon including Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, the Christian camp as a whole, the Hizballah militias and their godfathers, the rulers of Khomeyni's Iran.

We must refer to an important point. All the signs are that the Syrian-'Arafat reconciliation is tactical and temporary and that the rulers of Damascus have carefully calculated and meticulously prepared a balance sheet of profits and losses. It is certain that the profits the rulers of Damascus hope to reap are in Lebanon which continues to top their list of priorities.

In light of what is known about the nature of the Damascus rulers and their opportunistic and Machiavellian actions, the question is not how will the rulers of Damascus exploit 'Arafat and his organization, but when will they throw him out of Damascus again after using him? Will they throw him out after they settle their accounts with the Hizballah militias, after the Lebanese presidential elections, or after implementing their scheme to turn Lebanon into a Syrian protectorate?

Rabin Outlines Defense Policy Issues, Options
TA2904141088 *Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew*
29 Apr 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that a unique decade, from Israel's standpoint, is now coming to an end. Its main characteristic, Rabin believes, was relative calm which we failed to exploit to promote our interests.

The defense minister appeared at a Tel Aviv University seminar commemorating the late former Chief of Staff David El'azar. He mentioned the peace treaty with Egypt and the Iran-Iraq war as the two central events that influenced the decade. Even though by all accounts the

situation was most conducive to the promotion of the political process, the situation only worsened and the Palestinians became the focal point of the conflict. "If we refuse to deal with this conflict, or refuse to regard it as a political conflict requiring a political solution, the end result could be extremely grave," stated Rabin.

He expressed his opinion that the peace with Egypt will be preserved although religious fanaticism will expand even among the Israeli Arabs. He noted that the military stand-off in the Gulf war spawned a Middle East arms race in new areas: long-range surface-to-surface missiles; chemical weapons; and what he termed the absolute worst development, the legitimization of the use of chemical weapons.

"I marvel at the discrepancy between the publicity given to footage showing IDF soldiers beating Arabs, and the fact that the whole world is oblivious to Iraq's use of poisonous gas to kill 5,000 Kurds. I also notice an ever-diminishing gap in the superpowers' approach to a solution to the Iran-Iraq war, following the removal of areas of conflict as in the recent pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan."

The main threat to Israel is still the military threat from the Arab countries, the defense minister stated. "I believe we must not strive to implement a policy of an offensive war to attain political goals, or to forestall a military threat. The next war will be painful and also expensive from the economic standpoint. The quantities of weapons and firepower will turn any future war into a far more lethal affair than we have ever seen before. This is not, however, to say that I am ruling out the possibility of a preemptive strike."

The minister pointed out that 80 percent of IDF expenditures go toward preparedness to tackle the military threat and toward preserving our deterrent power. "The existence of an IDF offensive capability does not conflict with my conception, which is of a security policy based on defense and deterrence. We have nothing to gain by war, nothing that would justify its cost. It is therefore preferable to maintain the current state of affairs without a war." [passage omitted]

Shamir Office: 'Nothing New' in Tabah Proposals
TA0105165688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] There is nothing new in the proposals presented by Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department legal adviser, regarding the Tabah issue. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

That is what officials in the prime minister's office say. The picture is slightly different in the foreign minister's office. This afternoon Abraham Sofaer told Shim'on Peres that a compromise on the Tabah issue is definitely possible. The details will require lengthy negotiations, and Sofaer said he is prepared to do his best on this matter.

Following is a general outline of the compromise proposal: Egypt will have formal sovereignty over Tabah; in practice, an Israeli firm will manage the installations in the area; the main Egyptian border terminal will remain at its current site and Israeli citizens will be allowed to enter Tabah with few restrictions.

Polish Aircraft Industries, IAI Hold Talks
TA0205104488 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
2 May 88 p 3

[Report by Yosi Melman and Natan Ro'i]

[Text] The director general of the Polish aircraft industries recently visited Israel and discussed commercial cooperation between the two countries. Polish officials in Warsaw told DAVAR that Jerzy Slowinski, the director general of the concern, and his deputy were in Israel 3 weeks ago and met with their counterparts at Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. The visit was meant to reciprocate for IAI Director General Moshe Karat's secret visit to Poland a year ago.

As will be recalled, the director general of Lot, the Polish national airlines, was in Israel 2 weeks ago and discussed the possibility of his company flying to Israel. El Al has been offering special charter flights to Warsaw for several months. They discussed the possibility of Lot aircraft being refurbished at IAI's Bedek Division.

Yesterday, for the first time since the break in relations between Israel and Poland in 1967, the Israeli tenants were ousted from the Polish Embassy building at 95 Allenby Street so that Lot Airlines and Orbis, the Polish national tourist office, can take up offices in the available space.

The Polish diplomatic team left the embassy offices on the day relations were severed, leaving behind a two-member delegation: the director general of the PKO [Polish Savings Bank] and another senior Polish official. The director general lived on the second floor of the building, and the remaining rooms were occupied by commercial firms.

Swiss Delegation Cancels Visit; Security Cited
TA2904160188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] A delegation of 13 Swiss sportsmen has canceled its participation in the 'Emeq Yizre'el Triathlon, scheduled for tomorrow. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a letter of explanation, the Swiss delegation said that the cancellation is related to the security situation in the territories. Nevertheless, several dozen European sportsmen, the guests of 'Emeq Yizre'el kibbutzim, will take part in tomorrow's race. The triathlon is a sports event that combines swimming, cycling, and running.

GDR Delegation Visiting as RAKAH Guest
TA2904125688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
29 Apr 88 p A2

[Text] A high-ranking GDR Communist Party delegation is currently visiting Israel as the guest of RAKAH. No political meetings are scheduled for the delegation members. Achim Becker, a member of the GDR Communist Party Central Committee, heads the delegation, which arrived yesterday on a week-long visit.

This is the first GDR Communist Party delegation to visit Israel in 2 years.

Herut Leaders Meet; No Election Decision Reached
TA0105190088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 1 May 88

[Excerpts] Herut leaders did not manage to bridge their differences over the date for internal elections and the distribution of positions after the Knesset elections. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports on the meeting held by Yitzhaq Shamir, Ari'el Sharon, Moshe Arens, and David Levi.

The ministers radiated optimism as they came out of the summit meeting. In fact, the question of the date of the internal elections in Herut and the merger with the Liberal Party were not settled even after 3 hours of discussions.

David Levi's position in the government was discussed. The prime minister reiterated that should the Likud form the next government, Levi's status in it would reflect his position in the party. Hence, his number two position in a future government would include the role of deputy prime minister. It was further decided that the composition of the next government would be decided with the agreement of the four Herut leaders. Ministers Sharon and Arens stressed that in principle they are in agreement, but hid their differences over so-called technical issues. [passage omitted]

Agreement was also reached on some other issues. Ministers Levi, Sharon, and Arens will meet on Tuesday without the prime minister to coordinate the technical matters connected to the internal elections campaign. Later, the Herut ministers will meet the Liberal ministers in order to discuss the question of the merger. As recalled, Ministers Sharon and Levi demand that the Liberal ministers should not participate in the election of Herut's representatives in the next Knesset.

It was also agreed to set up a committee made up of all factions of the Herut Movement which will be in charge of the internal elections campaign.

So, there was progress, a good atmosphere, and optimism. No date was set for the internal elections, and the question whether we are facing the end of the tension

within the Herut leadership will probably be resolved later this week in the meeting of Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Arens. [passage omitted]

Shamir Clarifies Agreement
TA0205075088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] In the wake of the understanding reached yesterday by Herut Ministers Shamir, Levi, Sharon, and Arens, the prime minister's office issued a clarification saying that Yitzhaq Shamir will retain the prerogative of appointing the ministers in his cabinet, should the Likud win the elections.

This clarification contradicts Ministers Sharon and Levi's interpretation, according to which it was agreed that the four Herut leaders would decide who would man the main positions in the next government. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel has the details:

The interpretation that Ministers Sharon and Levi give to yesterday's agreement is farfetched, said associates of Prime Minister Shamir following the publication of the understanding reached in yesterday's meeting of the Herut leaders. According to the version of Ministers Levi and Sharon, should the Likud establish the next government, the four leaders would have to agree on appointments to the key positions. This appears to deprive the prime minister of the exclusive prerogative to set up his own cabinet. The prime minister's office yesterday hurried to clarify that this is not Shamir's interpretation of the agreement.

The prime minister's office says: The prime minister sees Ministers Arens, Levi, and Sharon as the leaders of the Herut Movement. He has consulted them in the past, and will continue to do so regarding future ministerial appointments, but will retain the prerogative given to every prime minister to establish his own cabinet.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ari'el Sharon has said that the agreements reached yesterday will restore peace in the Herut Movement. A similar assessment was voiced yesterday by Levi's men.

Ministers Sharon, Arens, and Levi will hold another meeting tomorrow, and are later to meet with the Liberal Party ministers to discuss the merger between the two parties. The trend in the Herut Party is against a complete merger prior to the Knesset elections. Reacting to that trend, Minister Moda'i, head of the Liberal Party Presidium, told us: If they do not want to fulfill the agreement they do not have to. I do not intend to fight them over it.

And, finally, will there be an internal contest for the leadership in Herut? David Levi remains silent and refuses to announce his position, but following yesterday's agreement the assessment in Herut is that the chances of Levi contesting Shamir are slim.

Progressive List for Peace Party Convention

TA0105060588 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
1 May 88 p 6

[Report by Yosi Werther and Fa'iz 'Abbas]

[Excerpt] "If the authorities continue to deprive the Israeli Arabs of their rights, they could be pushed into taking steps that would go as far as intifadha [uprising in Arabic]. Israeli Arabs have the right to play an active part in the political game, and they demand full equality and national rights."

The above was stated by Knesset member Muhammad Mi'ari yesterday at the conclusion of the Progressive List for Peace's [PLP] first party convention. He added that by that he does not mean that the intifadha from the territories may also reach inside the Green Line. "Israeli Arabs merely identify with the intifadha and with the struggle of the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

At the convention, clergyman Riyah Abu al-'Asal, the party's secretary general, said that the list was set up to fight for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. He read a congratulatory message sent from Tunis by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazan, who is a member of the PLO's Executive Council. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Communist Party 1 May Manifesto

TA3004093688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] A manifesto issued by the Palestinian Communist Party in the territories and the bodies supporting it on the occasion of 1 May praises those opposing the occupation and the peace forces in Israel. It also states that Israel's repressive methods in the territories will not prevent the Palestinians from continuing with the uprising.

Our correspondent Arye Gus also reports that AL-WATAN, the organ of the Palestinian Communist Party, issued a special 1 May edition expressing appreciation for the Soviet Union's support for the PLO and the Palestinians. AL-WATAN also welcomes the rapprochement between the PLO and Syria.

Nazareth May Day Rally Supports Palestinian State

TA0105113488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Hundreds of red flags, but not a single Israeli flag, were hoisted on 1 May in Nazareth. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the demonstration by thousands organized by HADASH in Nazareth was characterized by vocal support for the uprising of the inhabitants of the territories.

In a rally held at the end of the parade, there were slogans of support for the inhabitants of the territories and a call to Israel to leave all the territories and permit the establishment of a Palestinian state. The main speaker at the rally was RAKAH leader Me'ir Wilner. He expressed full support for the inhabitants of the territories and sharply attacked the Histadrut and its leader, Yisra'el Qeysar. A heavy police guard surrounded the demonstrators, and the 1 May demonstration in Nazareth ended quietly.

Shomron Foresees 'Sobering Up' in Territories

TA0105135088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 1 May 88

[Report on an interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, during a tour of Gaza "this morning" by Moti Amir—recorded]

[Text] [Amir] Lt Gen Dan Shomron toured the Gaza area this morning. He believes the residents have sobered up and realize that the uprising is futile.

[Shomron] The situation is quite similar in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza. In my opinion, the residents of the territories now understand that the intifadha [uprising in Arabic] and the riots do not stand a chance. I think they realize that the Arab states are not helping, that the world at large produces television reports but will not give any support beyond that, and that only with the State of Israel's consent—meaning negotiations and no riots in the territories—can the situation be changed.

[Amir] The chief of staff heard reports on the situation in the territories from the commander of the Southern Command and IDF commanders in the Gaza Strip. According to Shomron, we may see a more realistic approach by the people in the territories in the near future.

[Shomron] The residents no longer feel that success is immediate and even inevitable. They are sobering up and realizing that nothing can be achieved through this method, and that they have to return to the realistic method of negotiations with the Israeli authorities. That is why I assume we will see a more realistic approach in the near future.

Cabinet Discusses Territories, Bayta Report

TA0105103088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Today's Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem was shorter than usual to enable the Labor ministers to take part in May Day celebrations. The Cabinet was briefed on the situation in the territories by the defense and police ministers and the chief of staff. Included in the briefings was the report prepared by the IDF on the attack on Israeli hikers in the village of Bayta last month.

Arab Citizen Under Administrative Detention
TA2904153388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Apr 88 p A3

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] Hasan Jabarin, the secretary of the "Ansar Front," one of the factions of the Sons of the Village Movement, has been placed on a 6-month administrative detention order on instructions from the commander of the Northern Command. He is being placed on administrative detention for being "a security risk."

Jabarin, a resident of Umm al-Fahm, was apprehended several months ago and questioned on his participation in an international convention in Italy which was attended by representatives of PLO organizations. HA'OLAM HAZE editor Uri Avneri also participated in the meeting. Jabarin was released on bail and was not brought to trial.

Jabarin's friends have said that they will appeal their comrade's administrative detention.

A spokesman for the Progressive List for Peace reported that Knesset Members Peled and Mi'ari sent a cable to the defense minister, protesting Jabarin's detention and demanding his release. They claimed that the issuing of an administrative detention order without a charge sheet or trial of any sort constitutes political persecution. They will also raise the issue in an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

1 Policeman, 3 Arabs Injured

TA3004184488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] A border policeman was hurt by a rock and three Arab youths were injured by gunfire shots in three separate incidents in Judea and Samaria today. All four sustained slight wounds. Our correspondent cites military sources in reporting that the policeman was attacked in the Balatah refugee camp, one youth was hurt in Nablus, the second was also injured in Balatah, while the third youth was hurt in Hebron. They were all involved in demonstrations and sustained their injuries during the dispersal of the demonstrations. Hebron was closed to reporters today. The Gaza Strip was quiet today.

More on 30 Apr Unrest

TA0105071188 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
1 May 88 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Yesterday the IDF imposed a curfew on the Balatah refugee camp following a demonstration in the course of which a border policeman was injured by a stone. [passage omitted]

HADASHOT correspondent Shim'on Elqabetz adds that the Gaza Strip was quiet over the weekend except for a Molotov cocktail incident in which a Qatif Bloc resident's car was attacked. The firebomb hit the vehicle but did not explode. The Civilian Administration has recently distributed special pamphlets outlining restrictions on farmers. They are forbidden to plant trees or drill water wells. [passage omitted]

'Minor' Disturbances in Gaza

TA0105093688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] The Gaza Strip was relatively quiet this morning. There were minor disturbances, mainly stone-throwing incidents, this morning in the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps and on Al-Nasir Street and in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza. IDF forces dispersed the rioters, and the area is quiet at the moment.

Over the weekend IDF forces sealed an alleyway from which stones were hurled at vehicles traveling on Al-Wahdah Street in Gaza.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a partial commercial strike is under way in the Gaza Strip, but the open markets are full of people and many people from the area left for work in Israel despite today being 1 May. Schools were open and more than half the students turned up.

Arab Killed; Officer Suspended

TA0105141788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] An IDF company deputy commander was suspended today, when an investigation revealed that he was responsible for a shooting incident in Samaria in which an Arab youth was killed.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF force entered the village of Faqu'a in the Janin district today, in order to unblock roads and take down flags. The force was stoned. During the riot, the soldiers fired several shots, killing a 20-year-old village resident.

The initial investigation revealed that the shooting was unjustified. The company deputy commander was therefore suspended.

Gaza Child Wounded by Bullets

TA0105153088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] There were several disturbances in the Gaza Strip today. A 10-year-old child with bullet wounds was brought at noon today to the Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of the incident.

6 Administrative Detentions

TA0105165388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] The security forces have placed Dr (Zakariyya al-'Ara), the Gaza Strip Medical Association chairman, under administrative detention. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that he was detained last weekend for a period of 6 months. His two attorneys notified the military advocate general's office in Gaza that they plan to appeal the detention before the appeals committee affiliated with the Southern Command commander.

Our correspondent has learned that five more persons, residents of the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp, were placed under administrative detention over the weekend.

1 Sentenced for Selling Weapons

TA0105183288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the south Shim'on Elqabetz reports that an Israeli was sentenced today to 6 years imprisonment for selling weapons and ammunition to underground members in the Gaza Strip. Today the Beersheba District Court, headed by judge Yitzhaq Shabtay, sentenced 24-year-old Yoram Amor of Moshav No'am to 6 years in prison and gave him a 2-year suspended sentence. Amor was convicted upon his own admission of selling weapons to a hostile underground group in the Gaza Strip. The defendant sold 2 Uzi submachineguns, 5 magazines, and 100 bullets to residents of the Gaza Strip some 6 months ago. I did not know that they belonged to a hostile underground group, he explained. It should be noted that Amor committed the crimes while he was on parole.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the police arrested a teacher from the village of Umm Al-Fahm for possessing inflammatory material. The police found in the teacher's car more than 1,000 cassettes that contained calls for rebellion against Israel, in favor of establishing an Islamic state, and for the overthrow of Arab leaders. The teacher had been selling these cassettes for 2 Israeli shekels each. He was arrested, and a magistrate court in Hadera remanded him in custody for 15 days. A tape recorder and more cassettes were captured in his house.

Disturbances continued near the village of Yafa. This morning nails were thrown at a car of a resident of Nazareth. No one was hurt. The police started an investigation.

5 Wounded in Gaza

TA0105202388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Four Arabs with bullet wounds are currently being treated in Gaza Strip hospitals. Arab sources said that the four were wounded when rioters were dispersed in the Al-Shati', Jabalyah, and Khan Yunus refugee camps.

A 10-year-old child from Khan Yunus was shot in the abdomen, while three youths from Al-Shati and Jabalyah refugee camps sustained leg wounds. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF is investigating the circumstances of these incidents.

4 Wounded in Tulkarm 1 May

TA0105202788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Four residents of the village of Dayr al-Ghusun in the Tulkarm district were wounded by IDF fire today, after attacking soldiers. Arab sources have reported that five village residents were injured by fire and beatings. Security sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that an IDF patrol was stoned at short range, forcing the soldiers to shoot at the attackers' legs. Four residents thus sustained leg injuries. Arab sources said that the incident started when the army tried to disperse a riot in the village.

Arab Electrocuted Near Nabulus

TA0205100988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] A 17-year-old was electrocuted last night in the village of Bayt Wazan near Nabulus, while attempting to hoist a PLO flag on an electricity pole.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youth was brought to the hospital in Nabulus in serious condition and was later pronounced dead.

Our correspondent adds that most laborers in Judaea and Samaria left for work in Israel this morning and public transportation is running as usual. Shops opened in Nabulus, Ramallah, and Janin this morning.

Update on Arab Policemen

TA0205110888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] For the first time in many weeks, no town, village, or refugee camp in Judaea and Samaria is under curfew. Last night, the curfews on 'Anabta and Nur al-Shams in Samaria were lifted. Both had been enforced for 16 days.

A Voice of Israel reporter says that this morning most workers from Judaea and Samaria went to their jobs in Israel and public transport operated normally. In Nabulus, Ramallah, and Janin, shops opened for business.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 2 May carries the following report: "Tires were set on fire this morning in the usually quiet city of Jericho. In the Tulkarm District village of Dayr al-Ghusun, where five residents were injured by IDF fire last night, clashes recurred this morning as troops arrived to make arrests. In many towns, merchants closed their shops at approximately 1200. The nationalist elements permit shops to open between 0900 and 1200, while the army demands that they open in the afternoon only."]

Quiet is also reported in the Gaza Strip this morning. Reporting from Gaza, Steve Rodan says that a campaign to get Arab policemen, who resigned, to return to their jobs, has failed:

[Begin Rodan recording] The Gaza Strip is fairly quiet this morning, after several confrontations yesterday in which at least four Arabs were injured by army fire. There were several incidents of stone throwing and illegal gatherings in the refugee camps of Jabalyah and Nusayrat, but the incidents were short-lived.

The current calm is being used by Israeli officials to return the situation to what it had been before the unrest erupted in December. One effort is to convince about 400 Arab policemen, who resigned from the Gaza Strip police force, to return to their jobs. The police commander, Shim'on Levi, met with hundreds of Arabs yesterday and urged them to help their community and themselves and return to the force. The initial response was encouraging, and for a few hours police officials thought hundreds of Arabs would return to their work in the police today. But by last night, threats were sent to some of the Arab policemen, presumably by organizers of the Palestinian unrest, and the fear set in. By this morning, only about 20 Arabs returned to uniform.

The assessment by some officials is that the Gaza Strip may be quiet for now, but the Palestinian activists responsible for the last few months of unrest still control the Arab streets. [end recording]

Administrative Detention Appeal

TA0205043788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Gaza Attorney Raji Surani, who was placed under administrative detention for 6 months about a month ago, has appealed his detention to the advisory committee affiliated with the commander of the IDF Southern Command. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that so far Surani is the only detainee out of some 400 administrative detainees in the Gaza Strip to have appealed his detention.

Attorney Tamar Peleg of the Civil Rights Association who represented Surani called for his release on condition that the detention is not replaced with deportation. The committee will submit its recommendation to the commander of the Southern Command within a few days.

Editor of Banned Newspaper Remanded in Custody TA2904135788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] A judge today remanded Mikhel Schwartz, an editor of DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK], in custody. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the judge cited an emergency regulation to forbid her lawyer from meeting her for 7 days out of the overall detention period. At the moment, three DEREKH HANITZOTZ staffers are incarcerated. The paper itself has been closed.

Editor Allowed To See Attorney

TA0105202088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 1 May 88

[Excerpt] Ya'akov Ben-Efrat, editor of DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK], is suspected of membership in an illegal organization. Ben-Efrat, who was detained over 2 weeks ago, was today permitted to meet with his attorney for the first time. He told her that he is suspected of membership in an illegal organization, that he is being held in solitary confinement, and that he is being interrogated at length. His wife has been detained on similar charges. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Bans AL-'AWDAH Publication TA0205101588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has closed down the AL-'AWDAH weekly which is published in English and Arabic. Jerusalem District Commissioner Eli Suissa told our correspondent 'Adi Malul that he has been convinced that the weekly is being financed by and serves the terrorist organizations. The notice about the revocation of the weekly's license was given personally to the editor, Ibrahim Qarra'in.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 2 May adds that "the license has been revoked from today until further notice."]

Inter-Palestinian Clashes in Shatila Camp
NC0105055588 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0515 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] The Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement, represented by the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting, has provoked inter-Palestinian disagreements, particularly between 'Arafat's Fatah group and the Fatah dissidents who have expressed fears that this rapprochement will lead to negative results for them. As usual, the Palestinians have found in Lebanon an arena in which to express their differences through military conflicts. Such a conflict erupted yesterday evening between 'Arafat's followers and PNSF supporters in the Shatila camp. The two sides used rockets and machineguns in the fighting, which lasted until shortly after midnight. The shelling reached beyond the camp's boundaries, as far as Qasqas and Tariq al-Jadidah.

The clashes occurred 2 hours after a festival was held in the camp to commemorate Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Palestinian sources have reported that four people were wounded in Shatila, one seriously.

Clashes in Burj al-Barajinah
NC0105220488 (*Clandestine*) *Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 2145 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Since 2130 today, violent clashes have been taking place between dissident Palestinians loyal to Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and followers of 'Arafat in the Burj al-Barajinah camp. The combatants are using artillery, rockets, and machineguns in the fighting, and the sound of explosions can be heard in areas far from Beirut.

A source in Fatah—the Uprising said that the clashes are taking place between its fighters and those of the pro-'Arafat Fatah. Similar clashes occurred in Shatila last night.

[Paris AFP in English in a similar report at 2157 GMT 1 May adds: "Two people were killed and 15 injured in clashes Sunday night between Fatah and pro-Syrian Palestinian factions, Palestinian sources said. The deaths bring up to six the number of people killed at the camp in southern Beirut in two days of fighting."]

PNSF-PLO Clashes Resume
NC0205063588 (*Clandestine*) *Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpt] Inter-Palestinian clashes did not abate last night, but have continued intermittently despite several attempts to establish a cease-fire. The clashes between the followers of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the supporters of the PNSF, which is led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], were resumed at 2100 yesterday and remained violent until midnight. Artillery, rockets, and machineguns were used in the fighting, which spread to the Sabra camp at approximately 2200. A cease-fire

agreement was reached at midnight. The cease-fire did not bring the fighting to a halt, which did, however, subside at 0200 today. Later, however, there were sporadic outbreaks of violence. Meanwhile, intermittent fighting continues.

Palestinian sources have reported that 2 people were killed and 15 others wounded in the fighting. Among the wounded are four residents of the Shatila camp. It has also been reported that a committee comprising some Palestinian leaders will enter the Shatila camp to try to stop the clashes. [passage omitted]

Fighting Resumes in Shatila
NC0205093588 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0915 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Palestinian factions resumed in the Shatila camp at 0920 today. The combatants are using antitank weapons, rockets, and machineguns. According to Palestinian sources, 2 people were killed and 19 others wounded in last night's fighting.

3 Killed, 32 Wounded
NC0205104288 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Mountain*
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The clashes inside Shatila camp have eased somewhat, while contacts continue among those concerned with halting the clashes completely and establishing a cease-fire.

A security source has stated that the clashes have resulted in the deaths of 3 persons and the wounding of 32 others.

Israelis Maintain Aerial Pressure on South

Mock Raids Over Al-Biqa'
NC2904154188 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1518 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over the Al-Biqa' Valley near the Syrian border this afternoon. Israeli soldiers earlier stormed some villages in the South in search of persons suspected of having provided assistance to Palestinian fedayeen seeking to infiltrate into Israel.

According to security reports, at least six Israeli aircraft flew at low altitude over villages in the western part of the Al-Biqa' Valley, near the borders with Syria. The warplanes drew ground fire from Palestinians and Islamic militiamen in the area. It is not known whether Syrian troops in the region opened fire at the aircraft.

Mock Raid Over 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC0105201388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1952 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Israeli helicopters flew over 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp a short while ago. We have been informed that Israeli warplanes are now conducting mock raids over the Sidon camps.

Reconnaissance Drone Sighted

NC0205085888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] REUTER has cited eyewitnesses as saying that an Israeli reconnaissance drone flew for 50 minutes yesterday over the hills adjoining the slopes of Mount Hermon on the Syrian-Lebanese border. The eyewitnesses added that the drone, which began flying at 2200, intruded 8 km inside Lebanese territory in western Al-Biq'a.

This is the first time a reconnaissance plane has been reported to have flown over the area at night.

Group Claims 3 Syrian Officers Killed in Tripoli

NC2904201288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Front has declared that one of its groups attacked a position held by the Syrian occupation forces in the Abu Samra area of Tripoli at 1800 today, killing three Syrian officers and wounding a number of others.

Syrians, Fatah-The Uprising Attacked in Ba'labakk

NC3004114588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] An explosive charge was detonated near a Syrian intelligence service office in Ba'labakk last night. Following the blast, the Syrians cordoned off the area and patrolled it. Bursts of gunfire were also heard. Despite Syrian silence on the incident, security sources have reported that the gunfire came from certain vehicles at the Syrian intelligence contingent in Talya (in Al-Biq'a), causing casualties among Syrian intelligence personnel. The situation in the town continues to be tense as a result of the adoption by the Syrians of special security measures.

Meanwhile, tension prevailed in the streets of the Burj al-Barajinah camp last night after unidentified persons opened fire from their vehicles at an office belonging to Fatah—the Uprising. Several grenades were also hurled from cars. There was a state of tension and alert in the area until this morning.

10 Dead, 20 Injured in 'Awwad-Al'Atat Clashes

NC0105204088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] The Amal movement, in a statement released this evening, announced that its fighters will fire on any armed men in the area of clashes between the 'Awwad and Al-Atat families in Al-Raml al-'Ali and Burj al-Barajinah today. The clashes left over 10 people dead and 20 injured.

Libyan Released Following Syrian Intervention

NC2904195788 Paris AFP in English 1942 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 29 (AFP)—Kidnappers released a Libyan man Friday, one week after seizing him at gunpoint in West Beirut, close associates of the man said.

Naji Salim Shutayt was released due to the intervention of the Syrian military command, which controls Moslem-majority West Beirut, the associates said.

They gave no clues to the identity of the kidnappers of the visiting Libyan, but reliable sources said the abduction was politically motivated.

The underground "Sadr Brigades," named after the spiritual leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite Moslem community, Imam Musa Sadr, who disappeared during a 1978 visit to Libya, has claimed several anti-Libyan attacks and kidnappings.

Lebanese Shi'ite leaders have asked authorities not to allow a Libyan diplomatic mission to reopen in Beirut.

Army Issues Statement on 28 Apr Demonstration

NC2904150588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The Army Command Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement: A security setback occurred in the vicinity of the Chamber of Deputies yesterday morning, which certain people have misinterpreted because of an ignorance of the facts or with the intent to exploit it. With regard to this incident, the following points should be made clear:

1. When the peaceful demonstration by displaced persons, which was accompanied by internal security forces, arrived in the area of the National Museum, a group of people separated from the demonstrators. They attempted to take a road branching off from the museum road and the military hospital, although this road is used for the deployment of armored vehicles and is blocked off by barbed wire barriers. The sentry tried to guide those who had separated from the demonstration in the right direction. They rushed toward him, trying to disarm him. This prompted another sentry nearby to fire into the air as a warning. The attackers retreated, but

continued their verbal abuse. Certain people exploited the situation, implying that the Army had opposed the march of the displaced persons and the right of citizens to express their views.

2. The Lebanese people in general, and the displaced persons in particular, do not need anyone to assure them of the Army's insistence on establishing legitimate security throughout Lebanon, within the framework of a unified and comprehensive security responsibility. This alone is capable of returning them to their homes and property. The very deployment of the Army on the so-called combat and disengagement lines, as well as its convoy of martyrs that increases daily, is intended to ensure the minimum conditions for citizens to move about in their homeland, despite the pressing political situation which has been imposed on the homeland.

3. The Army Command praises the courage of the soldiers and the way their commander took swift control of the contrived situation. They forestalled a premeditated or spontaneous attempt that might have led to a situation rejected by the Army and the people loyal to the homeland and the just and urgent issues. The Army Command affirms that it will not be dragged into a situation planned by tendentious elements. It will confront all such attempts with the awareness, wisdom, and firmness required by the present delicate national circumstances. More than any time before, these circumstances make complete unity between the people and their Army essential.

Junblatt Speaks on May Day; Attacks Regime
NC0105194388 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain*
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 1 May 88

[Speech by PSP leader Walid Junblatt to a rally in Btikhay marking May Day and PSP's anniversary, on 1 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades and dignified audience: What can we say on 1 May 1988? We say that the working class is in danger. The first and most serious danger lies in the failure to bring to account those responsible for civil war, starvation, displacement, theft of the people's money, and acquitting the Phalangist regime in exchange for worthless, marginal compensations. The second threat lies in the division of the working class into east and west, suburb and mountain, Beirut and Tripoli, Al-Biqat and Sidon. The third danger lies in separating the Lebanese working class from the Arab working class, specifically the Palestinian and Syrian working classes, thus deviating from the unified and national course of the struggle of toilers, farmers, and workers in Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine.

The fourth danger lies in a possible retreat by the command of the world's working class, the class of Lenin and Stalin, caused by chauvinistic and Zionist influences and attempts to exploit the policy of modernization and openness.

With regard to the first danger, we must close ranks of all patriots to topple the Phalangist regime, either peacefully or militarily. The regime of monopoly, racism, and class privileges and those responsible for corruption and squandering of the people's money must be tried and brought to account. A new and just economic and political system that takes into account the rights of the workers, poor people, and farmers in Lebanon must be adopted.

In facing the second threat, the working class must remain above sectarian and tribal considerations. It is also the duty of parties and patriotic national forces to advise workers and farmers throughout Lebanon against becoming used for fomenting sectarianism and tribalism, or on behalf of the Zionist-Phalangist war machine linked with the Lebanese Army.

In the face of the third danger we say yes to unity of decision and will, from Damascus to Beirut and Palestine; yes to the Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian alliance; yes to strategic parity in all fields; yes to the popular liberation battle in south Lebanon, the Golan, and Jordan; yes to the (?inevitable) Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation; yes to the lofty and free Arab rifle under the command of the Damascus of revolution, of the Ba'th, and of steadfastness and confrontation; and, finally, yes to the unified Arab, progressive front. [applause]

Finally, and in the face of the fourth danger, we say that modernization and openness constitute an inevitable necessity for progress, for ending inertia and backwardness, and for harnessing the tremendously accelerating drive for scientific progress. However, and out of our eagerness to preserve the accomplishments of the great October revolution, we reserve the right to say that the working class' political awareness of the imperialist, Zionist, and chauvinist threats must be paramount in all considerations. [passage omitted]

On this day we salute all the workers, toilers, and farmers in Lebanon; the noble and patriotic resistance fighters in the South; the free revolutionaries in Palestine; Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the noblest of all martyrs; the hands and rifles that are protecting the Ba'th and socialism in Arab Damascus; and those who have pledged to fight imperialism and Zionism wherever they exist. Thank you [applause]

Amal's Birri Interviewed on Events in South
NC2804121088 *Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic*
25 Apr 88 pp 10-19

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by AL-SHIRA' Chief Editor Hasan Sabra and Zayn Hamud—place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-SHIRA'] There is an American movement in the region now. Do the events in the South [the Amal-Hizballah clashes] aid or impede this movement, or is there an attempt to undercut it?

[Birri] First of all, everything that happens here should not be viewed as a big plot, as if people have nothing to worry about except us. This method of exaggerating the issue also exaggerates our mistakes, to the extent of making them disappear in the end. We should, in fact, do away with this and look at matters realistically. The U.S. Administration is the enemy of the Muslims and Arabs. It is the enemy of our issue in the South, the enemy of Palestine. The Islamic Republic has labeled this enmity by saying "the United States is the Great Satan." We have always said that the United States is the principal enemy and the greatest enemy to Arabs, Palestinians, Lebanese, and Muslims. This is clear to everyone. Let us stop playing this tune. We might compete in coining slogans, but the fact remains that the United States has left us no choice but to blame it for being our real enemy.

What took place in the South was not directed against the United States, but against the Amal movement. It was against Lebanon and its unity. What would have happened if it had succeeded? I believe that UNIFIL would have left after 12 hours. Where would the South be? Forgotten? Would the South have been forgotten? Would the forces that prevailed prior to 1982 return to prevail there again? Or would there have been a new formula? I believe that those who acted did so without taking this into account. They believed that they would succeed in imposing their authority. They believed that they would be in control. Naturally, it was a big mistake.

[AL-SHIRA'] All right. Let us imagine the South without the Amal movement. What would be the situation in the South had Hizballah won?

[Birri] In my view, there would have been other forces occupying the South within 2 months.

[AL-SHIRA'] Such as?

[Birri] Palestinian forces, in all likelihood.

[AL-SHIRA'] And if we move to the worst likelihood?

[Birri] Israel.

[AL-SHIRA'] It would return to invade the South again?

[Birri] Of course.

[AL-SHIRA'] But there is a precedent for this, isn't there? Let Israel come and occupy the South; then we will fight it and defeat it?

[Birri] The history of the Amal movement and the region makes us dread such a thing. When Israel entered, they all fled and the Amal movement was left alone. We fought alone in the South from 1982 until 1985. If we knew the people would stay and stand fast if Israel entered it would be wonderful. We would see this as a blessing from God. But experience has taught us not to expect such a thing. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] If we do not exaggerate matters and say that everything is the result of a plot, and if we talk on Lebanese affairs, we find that the most important Lebanese issue is that of Jabal 'Amil [predominantly Shi'ite area in southern Lebanon] and the relationship between Lebanon and Palestine. Does this not necessitate certain arrangements between Jabal 'Amil and the Israeli enemy?

[Birri] (Interrupting) No. First, I want to address this issue because they are trying to say through their wordy statements that this is a plan for security arrangements. Had Amal wanted to establish security arrangements with Israel, the issue would have ended in 1982. Had it wanted security arrangements in 1985, '86, or '87, etcetera, the matter would have been over and done.

[AL-SHIRA'] How can this issue be settled?

[Birri] The Amal movement could accept security arrangements.

[AL-SHIRA'] On what basis?

[Birri] Had the Amal movement accepted security arrangements, the issue would have been ended by the United Nations a long time ago. I divulge no secrets when I say that Marrack Goulding told 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam more than 2 and 1/2 years ago that Israel would withdraw from southern Lebanon if there was a security guarantee that satisfied the Amal movement. The Syrians rejected this. We also maintained that we would never accept such an arrangement between Israel and ourselves. There is only the armistice agreement between us. We maintain a state of hostility with Israel. The Amal movement calls for the liberation of Jerusalem and, consequently, the retrieval of all rights of the Palestinian people. We could not end the state of hostility, but as Lebanese our first duty is to liberate our land unconditionally. The only acceptable and existing security arrangement between us and Israel is Resolution 425, the UN emergency force, and the well-known armistice agreement, which other Arab countries also have with Israel, no more no less.

[AL-SHIRA'] Had Hizballah triumphed, the UN emergency force would have withdrawn in 12 hours. Now that the Amal movement has scored a victory, is the implementation of Resolutions 425 and 426 possible?

[Birri] Resolution 425. We come here to a plot by the United States and others, and by those who talk of security arrangements. They believe that the regime in Lebanon and the existing structure in Lebanon will lead to a solution. They think that the Maronite privileges could be easily surrendered in return for security arrangements. They forget that we still have an enemy called Israel and an enemy of Islam in Lebanon, namely the Lebanese regime. They forget everything. They no longer have anything to do except to think about how to strike at us and defeat the Amal movement. They want

to punish us because we are perhaps the most opposed to Israel and to this regime. You noticed the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation and the Lebanese Forces information media during the battles in the South. With whom did they side? With us or Hizballah? It is no secret that during our battle with Hizballah in the Jba' area, Antoine Lahd's forces were shelling the Amal movement positions, wounding five members with fragmentation bombs. The information media uproar, however, claimed that this was in preparation for a security arrangement. They talk nonsense even though people were killed by Hizballah in this battle. I will mention one, who was called Al-Yatim. A ceremony was held in Burj Rahhal recently, 7 days after his death, although he comes from Kafra. I wish I could enumerate the operations Al-Yatim carried out against Israel. I wish they knew that he had been one of the most important individuals in the struggle to liberate the seven villages while Israel controlled the South. Had they known this, they would have understood the Hizballah onslaught against the Amal movement. We heard about the attack against an ambulance and the killing of three people, which is truly an unforgivable crime. The Amal movement, of course, bears part of the responsibility for this. One of the dead was an Amal movement scout and the two others were Hizballah members. They do not say what the cause of this incident was. They do not say why the brothers of those people became enraged and were assisted by members of the Amal movement. They failed to distinguish between Amal movement and Hizballah members and thus killed those people. They do not ask why. They do not say that the reason was the hanging of five Amal movement members with Kalashnikov straps. Does the Islamic religion preach this? Is this how a prisoner of war should be treated? This state of affairs made it our duty to put an end to religion mongering.

[AL-SHIRA'] Let us go back to Resolution 425. Is there now an opportunity to implement it?

[Birri] Where?

[AL-SHIRA'] Resolution 425 can only be implemented as a result of pressure, the pressure of the resistance. When Lebanon secured Resolution 425, it was able to do so on the basis of the theory that Lebanon's strength lies in its weakness. This theory earned worldwide public support. Lebanon's strength now lies in its resistance. Consequently, whenever the resistance manages to defeat the Israeli enemy and do him and Lahd real harm, it gets closer to the implementation of Resolution 425. This, however, does not mean that we must abandon Resolution 425, the book which we hold in our right hand. On the contrary, this resolution constitutes an international umbrella, and it is international legitimacy that gives the people their rights. Let us take for example our brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran and their battle against Iraq, who is the aggressor against Iran. Good. Why do our brothers always resort to and go back to the United Nations? A few days ago Iraq used chemical weapons. Why did our Iranian brothers insist that

some observers visit the area and see what is happening? They did so because the international umbrella is important, as a matter of course, and international public opinion is important, too. I have a card in my hands. Why should I abandon it? Should I do so for the sake of Israel? This would be to Israel's advantage. Israel would be the beneficiary if I were to abandon a card which is in my interest.

[AL-SHIRA'] In other words, the resistance is your guarantee for imposing a solution on Israel?

[Birri] Yes.

[AL-SHIRA'] After Israel's withdrawal from a large part of the occupied territory, the resistance pursued a qualitative course of action, which is somewhat different from its previous course. The proof is that Israel is now satisfied and says that it lost only a few dead in the past period. Is there any intention of developing the action of the resistance?

[Birri] Of course, and we stress this. What happens after a shelling? Israel prods Lahd, who besieges villages and compels a certain percentage of the villagers to join his militias. Israel turns the border villages into a buffer zone and sandbags. Where do shells fall when we resort to shelling? They fall on Lebanese villages whose inhabitants are mainly Lebanese, regardless of their party affiliations. Some of Lahd's men get killed during the confrontations, but Israel keeps on strengthening and reinforcing him. Qualitative operations, however, preclude retaliations against our villages while causing harm to the Israeli Army, and causing harm to the Israeli Army is a way of exerting pressure on Israel to withdraw. Israel would not care even if all of Lahd's men, and others as well, died.

[AL-SHIRA'] Well then, does this call for developing a qualitative course of action and implementing it in the interior?

[Birri] We need to go back to what we used to do before 1985. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] Let us go back to the issue of armed conflicts. Huge quantities of smuggled weapons have been discovered. Were they smuggled in for a particular purpose? What is the story of the Amal identity cards and the missions entrusted to certain people?

[Birri] You should not believe at all what is being said. We used to smuggle weapons and rockets when Israel was in the South. They only allowed one crossing point and closed all the others. We were able to get the weapons to the resistance. Second, there was in fact a gap, a big Hizballah deversoir [reference to gap that Israel used to cross to West Bank of the Suez Canal in 1973 war] inside the Amal movement, particularly in the central security apparatus. We must admit this. There was a gap in the principal security organ which was

supposed to be monitoring this issue. The security system was directed against the Amal movement instead of working on the movement's behalf. It was not a security system for Amal. Matters have now been restored to normal.

[AL-SHIRA'] Have you closed the gap?

[Birri] Of course, of course, of course.

[AL-SHIRA'] Regarding the clashes that took place, can it be said that they are really over? Could they break out again?

[Birri] There is no intention to continue the fighting. On the contrary, the detainees we are holding are gradually being released. Hizballah issued instructions 4 days ago asking all the people who left the South and those who fled from the South in fear after Amal took control to return. We see them returning now. We have also cabled everyone who has the right to return, and each individual who has the right to exercise his political, information, and cultural activities and who wants to play his part in the struggle against Israel, and told them: Welcome. The movement must secure the means to enable them to do so. There is no intention to resume the fighting at all. We are not a group bent on establishing an Amal canton, in the South or anywhere else. There would have been no battles between us and our allies, as happened in West Beirut and elsewhere, had we wanted to set up a canton. On the contrary, we have never tried to monopolize a certain area and this could be our basic problem.

[AL-SHIRA'] Is there a possibility that the battle might move to western Al-Biqā', which is today in a state of extreme tension? Are there any preparations on the ground for such an eventuality?

[Birri] I do not believe that this will happen because the Syrian forces are there. Also, none of the parties has an interest in seeing this happen now. Neither western Al-Biqā' nor the southern suburb is the goal. Some people are saying that the goal is entry into the southern suburb. The goal is the position that will decide matters. The decision must be made from that position, and that position is the South. Now, Lebanon means only the South, from the international and regional points of view.

[AL-SHIRA'] But western Al-Biqā' is a target since it runs parallel to the Jazzin district.

[Birri] Syrian troops are present in western Al-Biqā'.

[AL-SHIRA'] Isn't it possible that there might be some problems there?

[Birri] A certain problem might occur, but nothing more than that.

[AL-SHIRA'] The national resistance in the South—Amal, the Islamic Resistance, the Faithful Resistance, Hizballah, and others whom I cannot count and whose names I cannot recall—what will happen to this resistance in the coming stage?

[Birri] Nothing, nothing will happen. We suggest that a joint operations room be set up so as to reinforce the fight against Israel. We believe that the more united the forces fighting Israel are, the more effective their activities will be.

[AL-SHIRA'] But this could make room for the return of weapons and the presence of gunmen once again, thus moving the combat lines there?

[Birri] No. The movement of weapons from the rear positions to the forward positions will be handled by the Amal movement, which will be in charge of this.

[AL-SHIRA'] And if they refuse?

[Birri] If they do, then it means they do not want to fight Israel; they want to fight us.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you mean there is a possibility that fighting could break out once again?

[Birri] If they say no it means that they want to fight us instead of Israel.

[AL-SHIRA'] Could we describe the events in the South as the practical answer?

[Birri] The fact is that the decision-making power in the South is not in the hands of Amal.

[AL-SHIRA'] Doesn't Amal reflect what is decided?

[Birri] This is a common mistake. They [not further specified] deal with Amal as an organization, and this is a common mistake made by most of those who fought against Amal, the last, but not the first, being Hizballah. They fought the Amal movement as an organization with Nabih Birri as its leader, 'Akif Haydar as its deputy leader, and so and so as its security official. They fought Amal on that basis, although, may God forgive them, they can see for themselves how many members Amal has and what its military strength is. They should know that in one of the warehouses that we discovered in the South we found more arms and ammunition than the entire Amal movement possesses. They should know this, as they have their own intelligence. The Amal movement is the people, the oppressed people. So the decision-making power in the South is now back in the hands of the people of the South, and it will not fall into anyone else's hands. In the same way, the decision-making power in the southern suburb is in the hands of the people of the suburb; in Al-Biqā' it is in the hands of the people of Al-Biqā'; and in Beirut it is in the hands of

the people of Beirut. By the people I mean the masses, the population, the inhabitants. Decision-making in the South is back in the hands of Amal.

Take the arms and ammunition that were ready for use in the fighting against the Amal movement in the South. If you look at it from the organizational point of view, the Amal movement and its fighters would not have been able to stand fast in the face of these weapons and ammunition for more than 24 hours. But the situation is different when the entire people are fighting at your side. Those people who demonstrated in Tyre and elsewhere to express their views were later branded. Sometimes they [not further specified] called them renegades, and sometimes they called them mobs. Of course, when the people of the South are described as mobs and renegades, then it naturally follows that Nabih Birri is a traitor, since I am part of this people. The closer the Amal movement gets to its people and their aspirations the more the masses will trust it. The more it distances itself from the people the farther it deviates from the path laid down by Imam Musa al-Sadr.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you think that what happened in the South is the beginning of something or the end of something?

[Birri] I certainly believe that the events there were the culmination of a gigantic design. I hope to God that people will begin to think about that and think again. Maybe they will find out the truth and be more careful. It is good to cooperate with the Amal movement and with the people in the South. It is good and it would please God to be friends with Amal and not fight it, and it costs less. They would win much more by cooperating with Amal than by fighting it.

[AL-SHIRA'] The people have supported the Amal movement and the movement is representing them. Will these people be treated any differently in the future than they were in the past when authority was shared among several parties? There have been complaints from many quarters that the authorities used to impose a certain logic on them in the past, a certain way of thinking and living, telling them what they could or could not do, telling them where to go or not to go. In sum, social life became a bit chaotic in the South in the past. Is there any intention to redress this situation, and how?

[Birri] We must go back to the beginnings of Amal. Those who gave orders in the South, were they implementing the teachings of Islam? No, they were not. Amal will return to normal Islam, normal patriotism, and normal pan-Arabism, to simplicity and honesty.

For instance, I once heard that the chief of a certain locality in the Siddiqin area, Shaykh 'Abd al-Mun'im Muhanna, was relieved of his post. What do you think of Shaykh Muhanna's writings? They lashed out at him and at many of the prominent scholars in this country, including Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh

Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din. The extent and severity of these attacks were astonishing. Actually, I am not under attack as much as the clergy is. Well, we find this absolutely bewildering. We do not know what they are doing or what they have in mind. You just cannot take Islam lightly or interpret religious laws as you like. I warned against this trend on 31 August. I said be careful and watch out, and immediately all hell broke loose. It was said that my speech was against religion and the religious scholars. My answer was that I am for religion and the religious scholars, but against religious injunctions passed by the unqualified and the unlearned.

We had come to the stage where everyone who wanted to get something done would pass a religious ruling to back up his position. This is wrong. Religious rulings must remain the domain of the specialized and the learned. They are not for amateurs.

[AL-SHIRA'] Certain land, orchards and the like, was confiscated in the South. Does the Amal movement intend to restore it to its owners?

[Birri] Certainly. I am very willing to see that all have their rights restored, except those who have had dealings with Israel.

[AL-SHIRA'] Does this apply to property confiscated by Amal before the last battle?

[Birri] All the property that was confiscated will be returned to its rightful owners, unless they have had dealings with the Israeli enemy.

[AL-SHIRA'] An ice cream peddler once went to Imam Musa al-Sadr and complained that no one was buying from him because he was Christian. Imam Musa then went and bought ice cream from this peddler to persuade the people to follow suit. Do you think it is possible for such an atmosphere to return again to Tyre or elsewhere?

[Birri] In fact we never deviated from this approach, thank God. You can see this yourself. The only area that is not under the control of the Syrian troops or the legal authorities and in which the Christian lives as an equal to the Muslim is the area under Amal control. I do not want to talk a lot about this issue. I would rather just refer this question to our Christian kinfolk in Tyre, Tibnin, Bra'shit, Safad al-Battikh, Al-Nabatiyah, and wherever else there are Christians. I would like to address this question to them. Let me also seize this opportunity to tell our kinfolk of Maghdushah, to which 150 families have returned. We received a complaint from them that there is an office there manned by Hizballah which prevents them from returning to Maghdushah. I am telling them now: You have a chance to return. Not only this, but the movement is telling them: You are most welcome to return, and are even requested to do so.

[AL-SHIRA'] There was an impression that the situation could return to the way it was before 1982, with the help of the Palestinian organizations. The Palestinian organizations had an interest in the fighting [in the South between Amal and Hizballah] and in supporting Hizballah. Why didn't they interfere?

[Birri] In fact there was some sort of support, but at the level of the local command, not by any decision from higher up. And I believe this was a wise decision because our brothers, the Palestinians, have no interest whatsoever in antagonizing the people of the South. It was a battle against the people of the South and the Palestinians are not stupid. They knew what it was about. There was an armed organization fighting an entire people, or trying to control an entire people.

[AL-SHIRA'] Does this Palestinian stand have something to do with the uprising in the occupied territories, the suspension of the camps war, or other issues?

[Birri] It does. There are several reasons for this stand, including the fact that we stopped the camps war in return for nothing. Later on, several things happened, but thank God they realized that when Amal declared the camps war over for good, we were telling the truth, although the hand that we reached out to them was not received properly, as far as the camps war east of Sidon is concerned. However, we said that we needed nothing in return for the east of Sidon affair. This is the first point. The second is that the Palestinian uprising must not be obscured by any regrettable act such as the one that took place east of Sidon [Amal-Hizballah fighting]. It really eclipsed the uprising and the resistance in the South. They always used to say that striking at the resistance was a red line for them. Well, this blow against Amal was more harmful to the resistance than anything else. I wish they did not have such conflicting views. However, may God forgive them; let them come back so that we might fight Israel together. We are ready to have them back. No problem.

[AL-SHIRA'] How could the Jabal 'Amil area support the uprising? How could it support Amal?

[Birri] First, I believe that the Jabal 'Amil is the twin of the uprising, and it served as a motive for the uprising to start. Second, the more pressure you put on Israel by fighting it from the South, the better it is for the uprising and the greater prestige the uprising will enjoy, not only inside the occupied territories, but also outside them.

[AL-SHIRA'] After 3 years, do you find that the people are prepared to bear the burden of resistance against Israel? In other words, do they need a period of rest or are they still capable of carrying the burden?

[Birri] It is true that the people of the South have suffered a lot, but they have to. The thinking they follow is that as long as a single inch of their land is occupied, the resistance will continue, even if this will lead to the reoccupation of the South several times.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you believe that the political parties adopted any stand during the period of conflict with Hizballah?

[Birri] No, no.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you believe that the Shi'ite unity is now stronger than before, or has the war in the South affected it?

[Birri] It is my view that if the proper lesson is drawn and fundamental bases are laid, the present stage is the golden opportunity to reunite the Shi'ite and Islamic ranks. If we draw conclusions from this lesson and know how to exploit what happened in the South, it will be to everyone's benefit. The aim is not to finish off anyone. What is required is that everyone learn the lesson. Suppose I sit for an exam and fail. Then I am required to repeat the lesson more thoroughly and to benefit from my mistakes, noting at the same time that perhaps my teacher had not taught me well enough, in which case I should seek another to assist my teacher.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you have any initiative under way in this respect?

[Birri] There are contacts going on now. However, I insist that they be more than just a process of meetings. I insist that such contacts lead to an accord. For example, the security of the South is in the hands of the Amal movement, and this was agreed upon, but Brother Da'ud Da'ud was told that this is not true. However, it is true. Why did the people concerned not conclude a written agreement? This is assuming that the Muslim honors his agreement and keeps his word. In fact, there has been an agreement, a detailed one, and it was submitted to the Amal movement's Political Bureau, which subsequently agreed to it. Our delegation was made up of six persons, so it is not to likely that all would forget the agreement. Part of the agreement called for allowing Hizballah to open an information office in Al-Bisariyah, the guards for which would even be from the Amal movement. Well, all this has been denied. Now, since we are eager to establish good relations with Hizballah and everyone, we believe that there should be an explicit and written agreement sponsored by the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

[AL-SHIRA'] Does this indicate that this is an initiative from your side? That is, are you requesting that Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din sponsor the agreement and call for a meeting at his place?

[Birri] We are supposed to be talking about Shi'ites now, and the Shi'ites have a head, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

[AL-SHIRA'] You have no differences with this body?

[Birri] Which body?

[AL-SHIRA'] The Islamic Shi'ite Council.

[Birri] It is not as simple as that. What I am saying is that we are not talking here about a Lebanese problem, or a general problem, or an Arab problem. We are talking Shi'ite affairs, and these affairs should be settled under the umbrella of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council. Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din may have detractors or supporters, but this is none of my business. What I am saying is that there is a certain body called the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council and this body is supposed to be in charge of Shi'ite affairs in Lebanon. Any agreement of such import should be concluded under the sponsorship of Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din.

[AL-SHIRA'] Did the Council call for such a meeting?

[Birri] The Council is making arrangements now and delegations are exerting efforts.

[AL-SHIRA'] Are there any encouraging results?

[Birri] So far, we can say that there are results and we hope they will become encouraging.

[AL-SHIRA'] There are attempts to resolve the recent differences and turn a new page. Has the other side been cooperative and forthcoming?

[Birri] I cannot say anything so far. The contacts are not finished yet.

[AL-SHIRA'] Does the agreement include the South and other areas?

[Birri] I want it to apply to the South and elsewhere.

[AL-SHIRA'] Including the southern suburb?

[Birri] Everywhere.

[AL-SHIRA'] What is the Iranian role in the current consultations?

[Birri] The Iranians have a major role. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic in Lebanon is playing a major and effective role. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] What is the impact of the recent events in the South on your political standing, particularly concerning the conflict with Amin al-Jumayyil?

[Birri] I believe that what happened in the South underlines our strength and is an eye-opener to many who thought that the Amal movement was losing its clout and its edge. We used to hear that talk and ignore it, and it almost grew into a commonly accepted belief.

We have long refrained from squabbles because we believe in certain principles. We believe in unity, in resistance against Israel, in protecting the South and its inhabitants, in defending the poor. We eschew squabbles because we know that the country has many troubles, that the economy is as it is. Still, when we were attacked we had to respond. Certainly, the movement gained from the recent events because the scales have fallen from certain eyes. Now it is known, inside and outside Lebanon, that the Amal movement has principles and that these principles cannot be ignored. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] Is there a possibility of a renewed war in Lebanon?

[Birri] When did the war end?

[AL-SHIRA'] I mean the renewal of shelling, etc.

[Birri] Look at the deterioration in the national currency against the U.S. dollar. Do you find the devaluation of the last 1 and 1/2 years less gruesome than the shelling? I do not.

[AL-SHIRA'] You are right.

[Birri] The shelling used to hit only the demarcation line; now it is hitting inside every home. The national currency is relatively stable for the moment because of certain circumstances and an implicit understanding. But, let the implicit assumptions fall and the dollar will soar to 2,000 or 3,000 Lebanese pounds.

[AL-SHIRA'] What is making the dollar reach the 2,000 pound level? Is it the climate of war?

[Birri] The simple answer is yes, but I have an opinion on that which I expressed long ago. I said that the value of the currency is dependent on a certain financial situation. The exchange rate was only 8 Lebanese pounds to the dollar when I presented a plan which was, and still is, rejected. Let me tell you one thing: A man cannot accomplish anything alone.

[AL-SHIRA'] You present these proposals all by yourself?

[Birri] You should see how many Lebanese are with me, both Christians and Muslims. I believe that deep down the majority of the people support this. I would like to ask the Orthodox, the Catholics, or the Maronites from the deprived areas what they gain from the privileges.

Even the privileged and pampered classes, the Presidency with all its privileges, how many guarantees have they given the Maronites? How many Maronites have left their country and become expatriates?

[AL-SHIRA'] More than those who stayed behind.

[Birri] Of course. What do you expect? The people are not interested in whether the president is the son of Al-Jumayyil, the son of so and so, or the son of Al-Ashqar. They are interested in justice and stability. This country is no longer secure or healthy. So, what good are the privileges? If a person is dying, what good would it do him to give him a present worth billions of pounds, or to tell him: We will make you ruler of the world? The Lebanese people are dying; the Maronites have paid the highest price in this respect and they are still talking about privileges. What privileges? As far as I am concerned, the matter is one of justice. I feel that there is a separation and a distance between me and my fellow Lebanese. Why? Why is it that when we Lebanese go abroad to be educated in Paris, London, America, Egypt, or any other Arab country, we do not feel that there are differences between Christians and Muslims sitting on the same bench? Why is it different here? Why should one sect have more privileges than another? At first the argument was that they were the majority. Now they are not. What is their argument now? Maybe other Shi'ites and Muslims are willing to be lenient on that issue, but I am not. Maybe some will pressure me to accept and maybe I will bend to this pressure, but I do not advise the continuation of this state of affairs.

This type of thinking could divide the country along sectarian lines. There is a complicated ideological game going on, one of Islam versus Christianity. There is an Islamic ideology based on the assumption of injustice and a Christian one based on the assumption of fear. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] Evidently you are alone in these opinions, particularly with regard to political sectarianism. The overwhelming majority of politicians, the public...

[Birri] (Interrupting) I'll tell you this: There are people who are benefiting, and others who are politically immature. There are people who would tell you every time they turned around that the militias wrecked the country. All right, not everything about the militias is great. But not all the militias are the same. Some militias fight Israel; some do not. Some militias were attacked in Beirut; some carried out the attacks. Some militias call for the abrogation of political sectarianism and for justice in the country; some defend their privileges. You have to make a distinction here.

Without these militias and their martyrs, certain people would not have been where they are today. We have been criticized too often and refrained from responding. From now on we will defend ourselves.

[AL-SHIRA'] Is this a death threat?

[Birri] No, this is not a death threat, but we will not remain silent. We will respond and affirm to all of them, without exception, that their actions throughout the years have made the existence of these militia groups a legitimate duty. If not for their practices of currying favor with the Maronite regime and turning a blind eye to it in order to serve their own interests, there would not have been any justification for the existence of these militia groups in Lebanon. They have to go back to the cause, be fair, and establish justice. Then they will see that we are the most opposed to arms and militias. We are, after all, human beings born by our mothers and want to educate our sons. We have aspirations for humanity and creativity and want to contribute to these goals. We have writers and thinkers and we think that it would have been easier, nobler, and more worthwhile for us to hold our pens and write instead of holding guns to liberate a piece of land within our homeland. It is their own practices that led to people forming militias. They should not be hasty in their judgment. Whatever they say, we will not retreat. I assume that pressure may be put on me and the Amal movement and that something may happen despite ourselves. However, I assure you that Lebanon will not be stable and I know why. I am not a prophet or imam; I am not infallible, but I am sure of this. All we need is some real vision and understanding of history to know what is happening. Prior to 1982 we sent warnings and maintained that if the South was lost, the Arabs and the world would lose. We also said that the loss of the South would lead to terrorism far greater than the so-called Palestinian terrorism of the time. I held a news conference here in my home on 9 June 1982, after the Israeli invasion. I said: Israel must withdraw from Lebanon as quickly as possible, or it will encounter fiercer resistance than that of the Palestinians. I feared that this resistance would turn into terrorism; this has happened. I am not justifying the terrorist acts that take place. On the contrary, we are against it and must resist it. I understand why there are complaints from Lebanese everywhere—in the Arab world, Europe, the United States, and even the Soviet Union. There is real pain coming from Lebanon. Why? Because they all took no notice of the pain of the liberation of land from Israel and the liberation of man from Maronite hegemony. Thus, I will not kneel, and I know that history will support me. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you think that Shultz came to the region to waste time?

[Birri] Shultz came only for the sake of Israel. If it were not for the uprising, no one would have moved, not for Lebanon or any other country. They should no longer think that they are everything. Shultz came for the sake of Israel.

[AL-SHIRA'] But Shultz comes and goes to Syria.

[Birri] Syria is the region's only obstacle to Israel and the United States. Why is the international conference in the formula that Israel and the United States want? Who stands against this? Who stood against the idea of a mini-international conference? Who stood against the attempts to frustrate the uprising? Syria is a state that receives and listens to any official and gives its replies. What counts is the final stand; history will be the judge. There is real determination on the Arab level only from Syria, and on the Islamic level only from Iran.

[AL-SHIRA'] What has Shultz brought on his trip with regard to Lebanon?

[Birri] There is an idea—or an attempt to act on this idea—that solving the Lebanese problem is the way to solve the Palestinian problem. I am not against this idea.

[AL-SHIRA'] Of separating the issue of Lebanon from the other?

[Birri] If there is an attempt to separate these issues, then this is in Lebanon's interest, as well as in Palestine's.

[AL-SHIRA'] Is there a way to separate the Lebanese issue from the Palestinian one, or vice-versa?

[Birri] I do not believe that the matter is easy, but it is not impossible either.

[AL-SHIRA'] You mean there is a possibility?

[Birri] Yes.

[AL-SHIRA'] On the basis of a truce in Lebanon, or on the basis of a solution?

[Birri] On the basis of a solution. A truce will not last long in Lebanon. Lebanon's structure does not allow this. There are contact lines and not only on the ground, and they are out of control.

[AL-SHIRA'] In his trips, has Shultz given any special consideration to the Shi'ites, or have the working papers spoken in general terms?

[Birri] From what I have seen, no.

[AL-SHIRA'] In Shultz' action with regard to Lebanon, has the proposed solution a general basis or a sectarian one?

[Birri] It appears that it does not especially defer to the Shi'ites, but neither is it in the interest of justice in Lebanon.

[AL-SHIRA'] Does it perpetuate Maronite hegemony?

[Birri] There is some progress with regard to making the Council of Ministers the decision-making center, but, on the other hand, there are three power centers.

[AL-SHIRA'] Regarding your relations with Walid Junblatt, he always says that he fears the Shi'ites. What guarantees are you giving him?

[Birri] I want to ease his fears. After my experiences, I would like to have a friendship with Walid Junblatt, and no more.

[AL-SHIRA'] A personal friendship only?

[Birri] Yes.

[AL-SHIRA'] You mean you can stomach him?

[Birri] No. A relationship of friendship between us. As the saying goes: We ate from the same loaf of bread. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] Is there a serious plan to improve Amal's Arab relations, particularly as the movement is concerned with this problem?

[Birri] We are part of the Arabs, an Arabist group. Our roots, language, literature, holy book, and history are Arab. What affects the Arabs affects us. We do not show goodwill toward some Arab rulers because of their positions, not because of any Arab aspect. Our complaint is the same as the complaint of a person about a member of his family. Sometimes one says: My brother is not human, but a thug, a thief, a coward, a gambler. We have many such brothers, but this never drives us out of our tribe, our family, or our blood. Amal's charter states that it is a national Lebanese Arab movement whose ideology is faith and Islam. We have no contradictions or complexities on this point. On the contrary, it is the source of our pride. When we complain, we do so because a wound inflicted by a brother is more painful. We were wounded in the camps war. Thanks be to God that matters have become revealed in a clearer light. We hope that we will be able, God willing, to rest a little more with regard to the Lebanese issue and respond to a number of Arab invitations.

[AL-SHIRA'] Have you made any moves in that direction?

[Birri] A lack of time and the burdens in Lebanon are delaying me.

Prime Minister Speaks at Damascus May Day Rally
JN011358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
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[Address by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to a May Day rally organized by the General Federation of Syrian Trade Unions at the Cultural, Social, and Tourist Club in the Damascus suburb of Al-Dimas—live]

[Excerpts] Comrade workers: The comrade president of the General Federation of Trade Unions has referred to the importance with which the working class views the issuance of a law that organizes the nature of work in compliance with and implementation of the basic law on government employees. If a long time has passed since the study of this law began, I say to them that we are now carrying out a sincere study, under guidance from the comrade secretary general, and with the participation of comrade members of the Executive Office. We hope we will be able to formulate a draft law in the interests of work, production, and the workers. [passage omitted]

Ba'thist Syria was able, over a period of 25 years, and especially after the glorious Corrective Movement, to build a strong economic and social base. It also managed to build a strong industrial, agricultural, and productive base. Five-year development plans helped achieve this. Syria also managed to establish a democratic popular system and insure an effective role for popular organizations. The Syrian working class was the power on which the process of construction and development was based. The Syrian working class and its unionist movement have, through a long history of effective political struggle, emphasized their distinguished role all the time. Workers and peasants have always constituted the broad popular base of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party throughout all stages of its struggle.

Through the efforts, contributions, and participation of the working class in all decisions, popular gains in Ba'thist Syria were promoted and expanded. The role of workers, peasants, and honest producers was strong and decisive in deepening the political, economic, and social structure. It was strong and decisive in protecting progressive gains and consecrating the steadfastness of Syria in the face of all enemies. Through the struggle of the party and its masses, Syria saw the development of great landmarks, represented by factories, farms, dams, water and electricity networks, roads, ports, railroads, oil and gas fields and wells. This was accompanied by services in the fields of health, transportation, supply, and education. Every day, a new achievement is added to our firm economic base.

Our leader, the struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, has announced that our steps must be strengthened by depending on ourselves, local resources, and national capabilities, and that this must become a comprehensive economic, social, and productive policy for all our institutions and sectors. Syria is translating this great trend into plans and programs.

National innovation is what makes up the talents of our people; the resources of our rich land; the production of our factories, farms, oil and gas fields, and wells; and the contributions of our creative people in all walks of life. This is what makes all of us a power that deepens the capability of this homeland and promotes the efforts of the entire community to achieve strategic balance with the Zionist enemy.

If the strategic balance is the responsibility of the entire Arab nation based on the fact that the conflict with the Zionist enemy is a pan-Arab conflict, then the state of disintegration in the Arab world, which began with the Camp David accords and other sideline conflicts in the region, has placed Syria in a no-win position, a position where it bears the responsibility for the conflict with the enemy. This means securing all the requirements for this conflict. [passage omitted]

Since the goals of the Arab masses in creating a free and just life and achieving its will for a comprehensive Arab unity were expressed, the enemies of the Arab nation gathered their efforts against the movement of these masses. Moreover, Israel was established as an aggressive military base to confront this strong will. There were many battles, but in the October war of liberation, the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad proved—through his plans, leadership, and accomplishments—that in unifying Arab ranks in the confrontation of the Zionist enemy, effective Arab solidarity is the condition for defeating Zionism and its allies.

In the October war of liberation, the Arabs achieved victory over the Zionist enemy through cooperation, solidarity, and cohesion. The current Arab situation, which causes regret and bitterness, must not remain so. Al-Asad's Syria is continuing its efforts to achieve effective Arab solidarity in the Arab-Israel conflict. Syria extends a sincere hand to all Arab brothers who share its view of the threats surrounding the Arab nation. These threats can be eliminated by Arab solidarity. Al-Asad's Syria, which led the October war of liberation and kept the spirit of October, has proved, through its steadfastness, confrontation, and insistence on its principles, that it is the protector of the Palestinian issue.

The popular uprising in the occupied territories is recording heroic pages that will keep the banners of the Palestinian issue high in the Arab and international arenas. Syria salutes with pride the struggle of the people and kinfolk in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan, who face the Israeli enemy with their faith, patience, and resistance. It considers the uprising a shining new episode in the Arab struggle against Israel and its expansionist plans.

Syria also salutes the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation. This resistance has given the most fascinating examples of heroism and martyrdom. Its bold operations constitute a qualitative new development in the struggle with the Zionist enemy. The

popular uprising and Lebanese national resistance constitute a new and important turning point in the course of this struggle. Syria will be, as it has always been, a base for pan-Arab struggle and a constant partner in sacrifice, nationalism, and patriotism for Palestine and the Arab nation. Syria will remain faithful to Lebanon. The fight between brothers in Lebanon and the situation there must motivate everybody to end this violent tragedy and restore the unity of the land and people of the country in the framework of a national accord that achieves justice and equality for all the Lebanese in rights and duties. This accord should also enable Lebanon to shoulder its responsibilities as an Arab country.

O struggling masses, the march of the Arab struggle is full of sacrifice, resistance, confrontation, and patriotism. May Day gives us living symbols of struggle, sacrifice, and determination to continue the just march. From May, we derive this great meaning, which is stressed by the Arab working class being an organized force that is determined to lead the Arab masses toward their great objectives. In May, a basic fact becomes evident. We have no alternative in this struggling country but to proceed with more work and production, more economic and social development, and more political awareness of Syria's effective pan-Arab role. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Chairs Meeting on Economic Issues

*JN291208 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Text] Damascus—At 1200 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi chaired a meeting attended by the deputy prime minister for services affairs and the deputy prime minister for economic affairs. Also attending the meeting were the ministers of agriculture and agrarian reform, transportation, information, supply and internal trade, economy and foreign trade, industry, and finance. The meeting was also attended by the assistant information minister, the directors general of the press and information organs, and a number of their employees.

At the beginning of this meeting, the prime minister emphasized the major and important role of the news media in achieving effective communication between the state's approaches and the masses' issues. He also stressed the news media contribution to exercising responsible popular supervision of all projects and various state actions and also their contribution to tackling the problems facing the productive sectors. He pointed to the developed objective standard of the Syrian press and news media.

The prime minister also briefed the participants on the steps the government is taking in the fields of irrigation, agriculture, oil, and gas production; promoting foreign trade, particularly the export and diversification of Syrian products; and rationalizing imports. The prime minister's remarks also dealt with the methodical bases followed in the implementation of investment projects

and programs and also in tackling accidental problems by methods based on objectivity, initiative, and field followup. This should be carried out in a way that secures the utmost exploitation of material and human resources as well as enhancing the growth of self-reliance and the provision of domestic material and alternatives to the imported requirements of agricultural and industrial production. Useless expenditure should also be constantly reduced.

The prime minister stressed the fruitful results on accelerating the completion of water projects and land reclamation; expanding the irrigated lands; and providing for the requirements of agricultural and industrial production as well as for the field of linking production operations with export tasks in the same corporation and sector. He also stressed the need for a more accurate approach toward achieving balance between production and consumption.

In this meeting, the prime minister answered various questions posed by media representatives. These questions included several economic issues on irrigation, agriculture, industry, the supply situation, services matters related to the production of electric power, health services, the provision of medicines, internal transportation, communications, technical and vocational education, and issues related to manpower in the country.

The ministers also answered a number of these questions. Emphasis was laid on the nation's various capabilities and resources. These resources increasingly contribute to enhancing the development march and entrenching the bases of the national economy. There was also emphasis that the steps the government is taking will constantly bolster the various positive results through sound decisions, realistic measures, and integrated economic attitudes which the state sectors are pursuing in the fields of work and production. The provision of services to meet the people's needs in all fields was also emphasized.

12 Palestinian Detainees Reportedly Released

*JN011809 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 May 88*

[Text] Palestinian sources in Damascus say Syrian authorities have released 12 out of about 2,000 Palestinian detainees who are expected to be released soon within the framework of normalizing relations between Syria and the PLO. The same sources add that the released people are in bad physical condition and are receiving medical care in Damascus.

Soviet President Receives Envoy's Credentials

*JN291622 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow—Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has stressed that the Soviet and Syrian leaderships have effectively contributed to strengthening the bilateral relations of friendship

and cooperation. He added that these leaderships should further enrich and promote these relations. This came when Mr Gromyko received the credentials of 'Isam al-Na'ib, extraordinary ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Soviet Union, at the Kremlin today.

Al-Na'ib gave a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to Mr Gromyko and Comrade Gorbachev, CPSU General Secretary. Through the Syrian ambassador, Mr Gromyko conveyed his and Comrade Gorbachev's greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Commentary on Egyptian Policy, Return to Arabs
JN011601 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 1 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Many statements, interviews, and articles have recently appeared on the issue of the Egyptian regime's return to the Arabs. There has also even been much talk about the Egyptian regime's return to the Arab League itself. Much has been said about the Arabs' losing Egypt. Indeed, Egypt's departure for the Camp David side was a great loss and Syria is more aware than anyone else of the significance and effect of this loss in terms of the Arab-Israeli struggle. As a result of this loss, Syria shouldered great responsibilities and had to double its efforts on all levels to establish a state of steadfastness, progress, and balance to face the U.S. onslaught on the Arab region and to foil the U.S.-Israeli scheme aimed at liquidating the Arab cause and imposing a strategic hegemony over the present and future of the Arab region.

Logically speaking, any consideration of Egypt's return to the Arabs requires from Egypt new stands that run counter to the reason that in the past led to the boycott of the Egyptian regime. Has this regime taken a stand or a step freeing it from the Camp David chains or placing it in the arena of struggle in confrontation with the Zionist enemy?

To answer this question, we need only recall the Egyptian regime's stands, which demonstrate that this regime has not come any closer to the Arabs. Indeed, and regardless of some statements, this regime continues to distance itself from the Arabs and to establish more connections with the U.S. strategy in the region. Events are there for everyone to see. The Egyptian regime declined to sever its ties with the Camp David treaty, despite the Egyptian people's pressure, and cracked down on all the demonstrations that erupted in Egypt over the past few years to protest the Israeli presence and

the arrogance of the U.S. and Israeli intelligence organs in Egypt. The Egyptian regime put on trial and imprisoned all those who opposed the Israeli presence in Egypt.

Despite the Israeli occupation forces' savage actions in the occupied territories—actions that were witnessed and denounced by the whole world—the Egyptian regime did not react, lodge a protest, recall the Egyptian ambassador from Israel, or ask Israel to recall its ambassador from Cairo. On the contrary, the Egyptian regime stifled every Egyptian voice demanding support for the Palestinian people's uprising.

Yet, the Egyptian regime says it wants to return to the Arabs. How can the Egyptian regime be accepted while it forms part of the other camp, which is hostile to the Arab nation?

It is not only we who level this charge against this regime. The regime itself admits it. The Egyptian regime has signed what it calls a memorandum of understanding with the United States. One of the most prominent provisions of this memorandum gives the Egyptian Army commanders the authority to allow the U.S. air, land, and naval forces to enter Egyptian territory; establish bases there; and stage movements, maneuvers, and military operations without referring to the Egyptian Cabinet, the People's Assembly, or even the president of the Republic.

Why do U.S. forces come to Egypt? Do they come to support the Arabs, promote the Palestinian people's uprising, or deter Israel? Certainly, these forces do not come for these reasons but to implement the scheme of pouncing on and dominating the Arab region.

Despite all these connections with the U.S. strategy, which cannot be separated from Israel and Israeli projects—a fact that the United States admits and proclaims in world forums—the Egyptian regime is propagating a trivial argument that deceives only the naive; namely, that we must compete with Israel in establishing deep relations with the United States and accepting its trusteeship to have an influence on U.S. decisionmaking. The Egyptian regime is doing this and is not ashamed to reiterate that it wants to return to the Arabs. How can these two diametrically opposed arguments be reconciled? How can the Egyptian regime be a part of the Arab body while it is going to be part of the U.S.-Israeli camp and part of the plans, operations, and physical reality of this camp?

The Arab people in Egypt are the first to realize this impossibility. These people are confronting this serious policy and will foil all attempts at distancing Egypt from the Arabs and tying it to the suspect U.S.-Israeli plans.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Launch Rocket Attack on Kabul 1 May
BK0205151888 Hong Kong AFP in English
1444 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 2 (AFP)—A Bulgarian Embassy official and his son were injured when a rocket exploded in Kabul's diplomatic residential area, a spokesman for the mission said Monday.

The official, identified as Sasho Gorov, and his son were hospitalised with minor injuries and reported to be recovering, the spokesman said.

Diplomatic sources said the rocket exploded Sunday night in the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic residential area—between the Bulgarian official's residence and a United Nations staff house.

Three or four other rockets—launched from a distance of about seven kilometres (4.4 miles)—exploded in Kabul's Microrayon area, where a large number of Soviet civilians live, the sources said. No casualties were reported.

The rockets were Chinese-made surface-to-surface missiles which have been used by Afghan guerrillas in the past.

Diplomatic sources said Sunday's attacks brought to 13 the number of rocket incidents in the Afghan capital since Monday [25 April], the largest number in a week this year.

Sunday's attack was the first in the area since January 1986, when a rocket exploded near the U.S. Embassy, the sources said.

An estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are scheduled to withdraw from Afghanistan under U.N.-sponsored April 14 agreement which has been rejected by the mujahidin.

Down Soviet MiG in Faryab
LD021447 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT
2 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 2, IRNA—Afghan Muslim revolutionaries shot down a Soviet MiG, which was attempting to bomb mujahidin positions in Faryab Province on April 21.

The Afghan mujahidin also attacked a security post of communist forces near Meymaneh governorate on April 22, capturing 12 NCOs and soldiers. A considerable amount of weapons were also seized intact by the Muslim revolutionaries.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles at Herat Factory
LD021613 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Elements belonging to extremist groups recently attacked the Herat textile factory with surface-to-surface missiles and mortars.

According to a report from BAKHTAR's military section, damage of around 6 million afghanis was inflicted on this textile firm as a result of the extremist attack. A source in the factory reported that the patriotic workers and engineers have pledged to carry out voluntary work very soon to repair the damage caused as a result of extremist attack and to reactivate the factory.

UN Observer Team Meets Wakil, Discusses Mission
LD011934 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met with Major General Rauli Helminen, a citizen of Finland who has come to Kabul as head of the UN operational team to observe the fulfillment of the Geneva accords.

During this meeting the foreign minister conveyed his appreciation for the efforts of the UN secretary general and his personal to provide facilities for implementing the Geneva accords, and as a result, to contribute to ensuring peace and security in the region. He expressed Afghanistan's loyalty to and confidence in the substance of these accords.

'Abdul Wakil said the Government of Republic of Afghanistan is ready to fulfill all the articles of the accords and he pledged all-round cooperation with the UN observer team. The foreign minister added: We see the establishment of peace in the fact that the documents we signed should be implemented and there is no reason for the Afghanistan side to breach them. We have similar expectations from the sides concerned.

In response, Major General Rauli Helminen expressed thanks for the warm welcome by Afghan side and said: On the first day I set foot in Afghanistan we come face to face with a very realistic spirit and practical approach by the Afghan side. The general also conveyed his gratitude for the constructive spirit and goodwill in the cooperation that has been expressed to the UN observer.

According to another report, General Rauli Helminen arrived in Kabul this morning as head of a UN operational team. Muhammad Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser to the Foreign Ministry and director of its UN and international affairs departments; Brigadier General Khetab Janbaz, head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Defense Ministry of Republic of Afghanistan; and Sh.K. Banerjee, head of UN development program in Kabul, welcomed General Helminen and his delegation at Kabul International Airport.

On arrival at Kabul International Airport, General Rauli Helminen took part in a press conference which was held with the participation of foreign and domestic journalists. During the press conference, General Helminen, in reply to a question by a BAKHTAR correspondent on whether he had any contacts with the Pakistani authorities prior to his trip to the Republic of Afghanistan and how he assessed their wishes in the process of fulfilling the Geneva accords, said: I have had contacts with the Pakistani authorities. I am happy that I am in Kabul now. My wish is that each side completely fulfill the substance of the accords.

In light of the territorial vastness of Afghanistan and the number of his officials, how will he carry out the important task ahead of him?

General Helminen said that they were requested to help implement the agreements, but Afghanistan and Pakistan were the principal implementors. He added that his mission and that of the UN delegation is only to supervise its implementation.

A HAQIQT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR reporter asked to what extent he was optimistic about the implementation of the Geneva agreements, which have been well-received by our people? In response, General Helminen expressed total optimism in this regard. Mr Sevan, General Helminen's political adviser, said that many questions are asked about how a 25-man group of UN officials in Afghanistan and the same number in Pakistan can supervise the implementation of the Geneva agreements.

He added: The main sides of the Geneva agreements, as the general said, are the related governments. Our duty is to help implement the agreements and to supervise complaints about violations of the agreements or the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, and similarly the withdrawal of forces and the return and rehabilitation of refugees. Should a misunderstanding arise, we would try to solve it. Therefore, I think 50 people is a sufficient number. We are not peace-keeping forces. When a need to increase our personnel is felt, based on a proposal by the relevant governments, necessary measures will be taken. I think, at the present stage, that our personnel are sufficient. In connection with our work in Kabul, as in Islamabad, where we had meetings with high-ranking Pakistani officials, we would also have similar contacts here, too.

There were people who were not expecting the Geneva accords to be signed, now that they have been signed, they should note that only 1 month has passed since the signing and it is obvious that resolving the issues will not be easy and simple after many years of war. Maybe some misunderstandings will occur. We hope to remove them. The aim of those who have just arrived in Kabul from Islamabad is primarily logistical work. Then the complete delegation will visit both Islamabad and Kabul.

Another question: If there are any claims of breaches, will you go to the place of incident?

Answer: Yes, the observer delegation will visit that place, certainly, and I might sometimes go to such places myself.

Question: What sort of work can you carry out, in case of breaches of the Geneva accords, to prevent their repetition?

Answer: Please note that we are not peace-keeping forces. We have only come here to assist the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and to resolve those problems that might occur. Therefore, our responsibility is to provide assistance to them and to recommend the establishment of contacts. We will not resort to imposing restrictions on anyone, since we are not in a position to judge.

In reply to another question as to whether the existence of the UN team is a continuation of the Cordovez mission, General Helminen replied: Yes, our work is a continuation of the UN secretary general's goodwill efforts.

UN Commissioner for Refugees To Open Office

*LD300535 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Text] An agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was signed yesterday afternoon in Geneva in order to establish a UN high commissioner's office in the Republic of Afghanistan to provide necessary facilities and assistance for the voluntary return of emigrants.

A Foreign Ministry source reported to the BIA: This agreement, which is in accordance with the Geneva accords and Article 6 of the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the return of emigrants, was signed for Afghanistan by Muhammad Akbar Kherad, ambassador and representative extraordinary of Republic of Afghanistan at the UN European office in Geneva, and [name indistinct], director of the UN legal section for refugees.

Based on this agreement an office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will soon be established in Afghanistan to assist and provide facilities for the voluntarily return of emigrants.

Najibullah To Visit India in 'Early May'

*LD301622 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Apr 88*

[Text] The president's office reports that Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, will lead a high-ranking delegation on an official friendly visit to India in early May following an invitation from the Indian Government.

Najibullah Receives New Romanian Ambassador
LD301801 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning received His Excellency Ion Bucut, the nonresident ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Socialist Republic of Romania, who presented his letter of credentials. Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil was present.

PRK Delegation Meets With Keshmand, Mohtat
LD302136 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon at the Council of Ministers headquarters, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Khestmand met with a PRK delegation led by Tie Banh, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of communications and transportation. The delegation is in Kabul to participate in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

During this meeting, the two sides discussed and exchanged views about matters of mutual interest and the expansion and consolidation of relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the PRK. Deputy Prime Minister 'Abdulhamid Mohtat was also present.

Transport, Light Industry Ministers Appointed
LD021550 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan has proposed, and the president has approved, the following appointments:

'Abdul Rahim Karwal as minister of transport; and Fatih Muhammad Tarim as minister of light industry and foodstuffs.

PDPA Central Committee May Day Message
LD302114 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] The message of the PDPA Central Committee on the occasion of 1 May:

On the 102d anniversary of the international solidarity day of workers and toilers of the world, 1 May, the PDPA Central Committee sends its congratulations to all workers and toilers, to the thousands of combatant members of Afghanistan's trade unions, to the toilers of friendly countries, and to all workers in the world.

The celebration of 1 May in our country is one of the important gains of the constant and proud struggles of our party. For the first time in the history of our homeland, the young working class transformed 1 May

with a great and roaring wave into a festival of solidarity and revolutionary fraternity aimed at the powerful mobilization of the working class and of all toilers in the country.

Brave workers and toilers of our country: This year the celebration of the solidarity of world workers coincides with the first days of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution and success of the Geneva talks. They were achieved as a result of the flexible efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and aim to resolve the situation around Afghanistan and ensure peace in the country.

Today no patriotic Afghan and realistic person can avoid viewing with praise the great gains of the April Revolution, which were achieved under difficult and complicated conditions as a result of the pressure of the undeclared war.

You, the workers and toilers of Afghanistan, have bravely defended, constantly and knowingly, the gains of the April Revolution during the 10 years of revolution. You have been organized, on the one hand, into self-defense groups and Revolutionary Guards, and on the other, have taken part actively and extensively in the work contests and voluntary work, which have played an effective role in enhancing and developing production. You have fully felt the hard work conditions for the political, economic, and cultural development of society. You have witnessed the fact that despite the continuation of the imposed war, certain changes have occurred in the working and living conditions of the workers and toilers, in their salaries and in relations between workers and their administrations.

All these transformations have taken place in the financial and moral lives of the workers and toilers of the country in light of the April Revolution: building the foundations of a multistructure economy; approving the Labor Law of Republic of Afghanistan; signing collective agreements at productive establishments; distributing residential homes to workers; constructing nurseries, play schools, and hospitals; offering free medical services; allocating 4 billion afghanis to the toilers' children studying during 1367 [20 March 1988-19 March 1989]; and expanding the campaign against illiteracy.

Noble workers and toilers of the country, the homeland looks to you. Strive with your constant and voluntary work to raise the effectiveness of work and production, and by even wider participation in work contests and using initiative and creativity to increase the quality of work and to further consolidate the gains of the April Revolution.

Today the world celebrate this auspicious day with the slogan: peace. You, the workers and toilers of the country, should expand your worthy role in ensuring international peace, and particularly nationwide peace in the homeland and implementing the humane policy of national reconciliation in our country.

Auspicious is the 1st of May, the day of international workers and toilers' solidarity!

Rabbani: Soviets 'Covertly' Approached Rebels
*LD301808 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT
30 Apr 88*

[Text] London, April 30, IRNA—An Afghan mujahidin leader has disclosed that the Soviets had covertly approached mujahidin through some Muslim personalities. They had expressed willingness to have good relations with the Afghan people and readiness to recognize a mujahidin government, according to an AAP [AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY] report monitored here Friday.

Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani said if Russians are really sincere, they must publicly announce what they have been saying in their private letters. He said, if the Soviets hope for friendship with the Afghan people they must recognize the mujahidin government, stop interfering in their domestic affairs and compensate for their crime in Afghanistan, the news agency added.

Rabbani, condemning the Geneva accord said the Soviets do not withdraw their troops as a result of the Geneva talks, but because of the heroic struggle of the Afghan mujahidin.

Regarding the Kabul regime's proposal for de-militarized zones he termed it as a shameless and desperate cover over its imminent downfall and categorically rejecting this deceitful proposal, he announced that until complete liberation of Afghanistan from Russians and their agents no parts of the country can be considered as a zone (of peace).

In his speech Prof. Rabbani assured the Afghan intellectuals and Afghan women that they will play major roles in future Afghanistan. He added, the propaganda which says mujahidin will close schools and lock up women are totally baseless.

Rabbani also welcomed the Islamic uprisings in occupied Palestine against the Zionist tyranny. He said the Palestinian people are discovering their natural way for victory and asked the Arab and other Muslim states to support the Palestinian cause and not to leave their brothers alone.

Kabul Houses, Farming Land Damaged by Flooding
*LD301845 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Apr 88*

[Text] As a result of heavy rain during the night of 29 April in Kabul and the suburbs, tens of houses and thousands of jeribs [Afghan unit of measurement] of farming land have been damaged.

In accordance with instructions from the Council of Ministers, an official commission has been appointed to assess the damage caused by the flood and to supervise the provision of urgent aid to affected people. The commission is composed of representatives of related organizations.

Aid provided by the Afghan Red Crescent organization, the Department of Disaster Prevention, and the Executive Committee of the Kabul Representative Assembly was urgently distributed among the victims.

BIA reports that water in the Kabul River increased suddenly last night and threatened houses located along the river. Last night and this morning rescue groups rushed to the affected area, and with the help of area residents, students, and teachers from schools in District No 7, the belongings of the people who were threatened by the flood were rescued from danger.

Last night's flood has affected Districts No 7 and 9. Reported casualties and damage caused by the flood have not yet been received by BIA.

Bangladesh

Ershad on Proposal to Make Islam State Religion
*BK2904161488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Apr 88*

[Text] President Ershad says his government's efforts to establish the ideals and values of Islam in society have given the nation a sense of direction. Addressing the Jum'a [Friday prayer] congregation at (Azme Rashmin Jame) Mosque in Dhaka today, he said Islam is the only path for emancipation. The people have realized this and are trying to mold their lives accordingly. The president noted with satisfaction that wide response has so far been received from the people on the proposal of making Islam as state religion.

Referring to the statements by certain quarters against making Islam a state religion, the president said constitutionally the country is not a secular state after the Constitution framed in 1972 has been amended by incorporating Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim [Koranic verse: "I begin with the name of God, the merciful, and most compassionate"] and absolute faith and trust in Almighty Allah. In this connection, he said it is now a mere formality to make Islam a state religion. He hoped that the present parliament would take a decision in this regard.

President Ershad said making Islam the state religion would in no way create hindrances on the way of performing religious activities by the people of other religions. They will enjoy complete religious freedom as usual.

President Ershad Pays Official Visit to Burma

For reportage on the 3-day official visit to Burma by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his delegation, including talks with Burmese President U San Yu and the release of detained Bangladesh nationals, see the Burma section of the 26 April East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Prime Minister on Stability, Ties With Japan

OW2904090588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0022 GMT
27 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 27, KYODO—Bangladesh Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed Tuesday urged all political parties to help strengthen the process of political stability and economic progress in the nation.

In an exclusive interview with KYODO News Service, the 47-year old prime minister reiterated his government efforts to boost the private sector which he believes can help overcome the current economic crisis and achieve self-sufficiency in food supplies amid the nation's population explosion.

Commenting on the present movement of opposition political parties' movement Ahmed said the parties failed to mobilize mass support due to the negative approach of their program. He said the strikes and violence advocated by the opposition parties adversely affected the poorer people. The prime minister said our national goal is economic development adding that the people of the country are now looking more towards the government rather than the opposition political parties for their security and future.

He said his government is giving priority toward achieving self-sufficiency in food by 1990, doubling export earnings from 1.2 billion dollars to 2.4 billion dollars within two years.

Regarding Japan-Bangladesh relations, Ahmed said they were "very friendly," adding that we are very happy and grateful to Japan for support and help for our economic development. He said Japan also helped the nation in international forum of different issues raised in international forums but expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the response of Japanese investors toward a joint venture project in Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary Concerned Over Tribal Violence

BK2904134588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, April 29 (AFP)—The authorities have stepped up security in Khagrachari Hill District following an attack by Shanti Bahini tribal guerrillas on a Bangladesh Army camp, officials said here Friday.

A police official contacted by telephone in Khagrachari town told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the security forces had been put on alert and patrolling against fresh insurgent attacks had been stepped up in border areas.

He corrected an earlier report that a night curfew had been imposed on the town and neighbouring areas, saying that only some restrictions were in force on movement at night in several places.

The situation in the town remained tense after Thursday's guerrilla attack on a local army camp in which one tribesman was killed, residents said. Local officials said the security forces drove off the attackers who fled towards the border of India's Tripura State.

The body of a 25-year-old tribesman was found after the attack and the authorities were trying to determine whether he was among the assailants or if he had been caught in cross-fire, the officials added.

In nearby Rangamati Hill District, insurgents shot dead two Bengali woodcutters and wounded a third Thursday.

The guerrillas have been fighting a 14-year-old bush war for autonomy and the removal of Bengali Moslem settlers from the 13,000 square kilometre (5,200 square mile) hill districts bordering India and Burma. Thursday's incidents brought to 24 the civilian death toll in attacks by Shanti Bahini guerrillas in the Chittagong Hill Tracts this week.

In two massacres Sunday [24 April] and Tuesday [26 April], 21 settlers including women and children were shot or burnt alive in night attacks by the insurgents on border villages in Khagrachari District, gutting more than 30 houses and killing cattle, press reports said.

The spate of attacks were part of an escalation in the guerrilla campaign, observers said, noting that the attack on the Army camp was the first such incident since 1985 when a violent flare-up forced thousands of Chakma tribals to flee into Tripura.

Official sources confirmed that after Sunday's attack on Commilla Tila village enraged settlers attacked a nearby tribal village, setting fire to seven houses. Security forces rushed to the scene, arrested two people and restored order, the sources said.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam told journalists Thursday that the government was "seriously concerned" at the upsurge in guerrilla violence. The fresh spate of attacks could be intended to disrupt talks on the return of the Chakma refugees from India, he added.

India

Gandhi on Sri Lankan Elections, Punjab Situation
BK3004092388 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] The prime minister has said the victory of the ruling United National Party in the provincial council elections in Sri Lanka shows that a vast majority of the people in the island nation support the India-Sri Lankan agreement. In an informal talk with newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] after the defense investiture ceremony this morning, Mr Gandhi congratulated the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, on the victory of his party in the elections.

Mr Gandhi said the government has sufficient information about the involvement of external forces in the internal affairs of India. Mr Gandhi said the government has taken all steps to meet the situation. Expressing his serious concern over the latest incidents of killings in Punjab, the prime minister said it has now become clear that there are only a few fundamentalists and the majority of people do not support them. Mr Gandhi said one thing has clearly emerged in Punjab—that the two communities are not against each other, they have stood together. Asked whether any emergency measures are proposed to be taken in Punjab to check the incidents of terrorist violence, Mr Gandhi said it is for the governor to decide.

Charges Against IPKF in Sri Lanka Denied
BK2804075988 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The defense minister has said that the PKF was sent to Sri Lanka as a messenger of peace with the twin objectives of preserving the unity of Sri Lanka and fulfilling the aspirations of the Sri Lankan Tamils. He was replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today. Replying to a supplementary, Mr Pant refuted the charge that the PKF jawans [soldiers] committed atrocities on some Tamil women. The minister said lady police officers were sent there on receipt of complaints that women were searched by the police.

Pant Denies Commission Paid in FRG Sub Purchase
BK2904130188 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has asserted that the government has carried out an inquiry with extra seriousness on the allegation of payment of commission to Indian or foreign agents in the purchase of submarines from HDW [Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft] of West Germany to find out the truth. Replying to a short-duration discussion on the subject in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Pant said the inquiry has not established payment of any commission to either Indian or foreign agents. He said that the government has lost

advantage in the price negotiations with the West German company due to premature publicity given to a coded message from the Indian ambassador by the former defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh.

Mr Pant said that the former defense minister could have undertaken a confidential inquiry to find out the name of the agents receiving the commission. Instead, the former defense minister preferred to give premature publicity to the telex message he had received from the ambassador while negotiations were going on to reduce the price of submarines.

Mr Pant said that some incomplete design blueprints of the SSK class submarines had been passed on clandestinely to South Africa, but the West German authorities have assured India that no classified information or trial data of submarines supplied to India has been leaked out. Pointing out that some ill-motivated allegations were made against the prime minister, Mr Pant called upon the opposition members not to indulge in mudslinging and undermine the parliamentary values.

Sikh, Hindu Violence Continues in Punjab State

Shooting in Golden Temple
BK2904145088 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, tension mounted near the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar following exchange of fire between terrorists from within the complex and members of the security forces posted outside. A woman injured in the exchange of fire has been admitted to hospital. According to an official spokesman, the security forces had fired at the terrorist who was not hit. This was followed by several shots from within the temple complex.

The Sangrur police, meanwhile, arrested three terrorists who were involved in the killings of 10 persons at Barnala during January. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

Batala Hit by Anti-Sikh Attacks
BK2904150788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1500 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Amritsar, India, April 29 (AFP)—Rampaging mobs of Hindus burned alive one Sikh and beat another to death Friday in Punjab's Batala town where a series of bomb blasts earlier killed four people and injured 35, police here said.

The authorities clamped an indefinite curfew on Batala as groups of Hindus went hunting for Sikhs in the Hindu-dominated industrial town in Punjab's northern Gurdaspur District, police told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

2 May 1988

The series of bomb blasts in Chakri Bazaar was possibly the work of Sikh separatists, police said.

Police were out on the streets in full strength trying to force Hindus to return home, they said.

Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed

BK3004125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Seven persons have been killed in terrorist violence in Punjab since last night. Two persons were shot dead in Kapurthala District and one person in Faridkot District. Terrorists also gunned down two women in Gurdaspur District and two farmers in Amritsar District. Five intruders from Pakistan were also killed in Amritsar District.

According to an official spokesman, a terrorist responsible for the bomb blast in Batala yesterday has been caught by the police, but he consumed poison and died on way to hospital. Indefinite curfew continues in the Batala town as a precautionary measure.

Delhi Police Placed on 'Maximum Alert'

BK0105091488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] The Delhi police have been put on maximum alert in the wake of the spurt in terrorist activities in Punjab. Police sources say senior officers have been told to supervise the security arrangements in the capital. The public has been warned not to touch any suspicious-looking object.

Gurkha 'Activists' Kill Official, Attack Convoy

BK2904131988 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] In West Bengal, the Darjeeling municipal commissioner, Mr C.K. Tamang, was killed when GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists attacked him in his house. His younger brother was injured.

In another incident, GNLF activists attacked a convoy of the West Bengal minister of state for hill affairs, Mr Dawa Lama, in Darjeeling Subdivision yesterday. The minister was not in the vehicle.

Bomb Blasts Mar Darjeeling May Day Functions

BK0205034588 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Several bomb blasts marred the May Day celebrations in the Darjeeling hill areas of West Bengal yesterday. The vehicle of the CPI-M leader, Mr Anant Pathak, was ambushed, and an army jawan [soldier] was killed. Thirteen CPI-M workers were injured in a series of bomb incidents at Rangbul and Kagjhora. More than 30 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists have been arrested.

Talks With USSR on Nuclear Power Plants End

BK2904115488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 29 (AFP)—An Indo-Soviet technical and scientific cooperation meeting ended here Friday amid reports that the two sides had finalized an agreement for Moscow to build two nuclear power plants in India.

Parliament was told Wednesday that the 3.6 billion dollar deal for two 1,000 megawatt light water plants was on the verge of signing.

In other decisions at the mid-year meeting, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported that Moscow was also willing to assist India in the search for ground water and other irrigation sources, while India said it was willing to build 70 new hotels in the Soviet Union by the year 2000.

The Soviet side, headed by Deputy Premier Vladimir Kamentsev, had also submitted proposals to supply the IL-96-300, TU-204 and IL-14 aircraft to India after 1990, PTI said.

The commission is scheduled to meet again in New Delhi in November or December after the two chairmen confer in Moscow in August.

Iran

WIH Warns Against 'Security Belt' for Iraq

LD021446 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT
2 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—Iran will not allow the U.S. to provide a security belt for the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf, warned a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) in an interview published by the Persian daily KEYHAN here Monday.

The spokesman, referring to the Reagan administration's plan to protect all ships in the Persian Gulf, termed the brief battle waged by the U.S. against Islamic Iran as a "vain bid to cover up Washington's full support for the Baghdad regime."

He also referred to the recent U.S. air violation of the southern Iranian province of Hormozgan and warned that Iran will give a decisive response to such violations if repeated.

"If the U.S. intends to perpetrate a new mischief, it will without any doubt, taste the bitterness of our hit-backs that will not be confined to the Persian Gulf," he warned.

The WIH spokesman cautioned "We will retaliate U.S. mischiefs in any fields, and U.S. interests throughout the world will be attacked by Muslims who sympathize with the Islamic Revolution."

He described the Iranian people's enthusiasm for going to the battlefields as a sign of their "vigilance and determination" to counter the growing U.S. threats.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons
LD291934 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1230 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Friday prayers sermons delivered by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 29 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] We have numerous issues this week—some of which I shall discuss briefly. The most important part of my discussion in the second sermon will be about the present conditions of our society in relation to the war and important regional and world issues. I believe that our people must pay attention to these points.

This week we celebrate International Workers Day and on this occasion we should be thinking about this dear and great and steadfast strata in society. The principle of work, whether it originates from the so-called worker or from the manager or other active forces, has great value and worth. People who are idle, insensitive, useless, and whose existence is of no help or service to society or to themselves, are doomed. Those persons who use their own resources—either their physical or mental power or their experience—to serve people and put these human qualities to work to the benefit of others in one way or another, are a valuable asset.

In general, we should place a lot of value and hold in great esteem persons who are active and capable, not only from the materialistic viewpoint but from Islamic and spiritual standpoints. In all the sectors of work—cultural work, work with special purpose, economic work, or other work—there are active people in one capacity or another, from every section. However, today concerns a particular section: those who are termed in the economic and social culture of our times as a worker as distinct from a manager, an employee, and others who are involved in most service environments who are not termed workers.

This section thought that it deserved an international day as it works the hardest for society and usually gets the least reward. It has been like this almost throughout history; colonialism devoured some of the products of this section and there have been leeches—still in existence—who live on the blood sucked from workers; and there are parasites in society who shirk by virtue of the hard work of others. Defense of their rights, efforts to attain justice and their rights—as they are oppressed and some among them deprived, even though through their work some of them may have an acceptable standard of living—it is like this in general. [sentence as heard]

Unfortunately, there is not enough justice, even in Marxist countries where they have come and established their rule in their own name, the rule of workers; they term it the rule of workers. You know yourself how important a worker is for them. One of the arenas of oppression of workers is these Marxist societies of today. In imperialist countries, where they do not make any such claims, because of the struggles of the workers themselves, they have had some of their wages increased and gained some specific rights; hours of work have been limited, there is a basic wage-scale, conditions of work have become better, and there are courts and other areas that watch over their wages. So, if we were to look back and compare things with 100 or 50 years ago, the situation of workers in the world has become a lot better as a result of their struggles; yet, we still see a great chasm between rights and reality in the world.

We took a lot of serious measures in the Islamic Republic after the victory of the revolution to achieve the realization of the rights of this deprived stratum, and we had some successes, the last of which was the labor laws, which were recently passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly and will be issued, God willing, with some amendments. However, I will say that it is Islamic justice, the spirit of the House of Justice of Islam which we are still very far from achieving in our society. God willing, in time we shall eliminate godlessness and corruption from society; our workers themselves are familiar with these realities and have limited their expectations in accordance with the limitations set by the current situation of the country. We hope that state officials and these people themselves, for the sake of justice and the rights granted by this revolution, will be able to travel this difficult path.

Today coincides with the martyrdom of the eminent martyr—the martyr of the altar Ayatollah Qudusi, a great figure who spent all his life serving Islam and justice and who was finally rewarded by the altar of piety with the fortune of going to heaven. He had an honorable life and he met a death befitting such a noble person, and these criminals who committed this crime in order to deprive our country of these holy personalities—many other martyrs and many of our prominent personalities—they totally lost their bases and today they are leading a wretched and squalid life under the shadow of the the accursed Ba'th Party of Iraq, engaged in crime and treachery against their own country. This life they are leading is most miserable for them and the honor belongs to the families of martyrs who have tasted the elixir of martyrdom.

Next week we will mark the anniversary of the martyrdom of the esteemed scholar, teacher, jurisconsult, philosopher, and rare intellectual, Ayatollah Mottahari. It was among the first goals of global blasphemy to take this scholar away from us and we have sustained the major dangers that arose with the loss of the martyr Mottahari. [passage omitted]

We have Teachers Day next week. Mr Mottahari was also a teacher. The status of teacher is linked with his being a mentor. We cannot achieve the higher objectives of Islam until we grant teachers the status that they deserve. No topic, word, or subject is more sacred to us than the status of knowledge with its own conditions. Thanks to God, today our teachers are among the best people of our society, generally speaking. They are content. We could not care for our teachers after the revolution or secure a reasonable life for them. The wages of a teacher are among the lowest wages in society while the task of the teachers is one of the most difficult. We are not talking now about any teachers who do not feel any responsibility toward their work or do not feel very enthusiastic about the environment in which they work. However, regarding a teacher that feels that these children need guidance, should be cared for, have been entrusted to us by God, and that feels responsible for their development, this kind of teacher comprises the majority of our teachers. Their work is very difficult. [passage omitted]

Our most important occasion next week is the anniversary of the holy birth of the second imam, His Holiness Imam Hasan. We expect our mass media to observe that great day in a way worthy of the high rank of the imam and the second personality in the chain of the divine guardians. God willing, they will do this and the ulema and preachers, in pulpits and mosques, and eulogisers and eulogists, too, will also observe this duty, because all that we have, we have in the shadow of that guardianship and in the shadow of our holy imams' brilliance. We must always guard this wealth and use it more and more.

I will lay before you to some extent, without tiring you, the current conditions of the country, so that you become familiar with what is happening around us. One reality of which we have been aware before and after the revolution is this: Global blasphemy and arrogance are terrified of Islam, and a great deal of effort has been made, in the last 2 or 3 centuries, to prevent Islam from rising. Wherever the voice of Islam has been raised, that place has been suddenly subjected to attack. We can see that in the past, in Egypt, in Damascus, in Iraq, in Iran; in history, wherever we look, we see that it has been like that in the last few centuries. For the first time, God willing, an Islamic movement, in a powerful fashion and with an historically unprecedented support and with a leadership unprecedented in recent history, has occurred in Iran. Suddenly, a great power rose up, and because of this beginning they intended to suppress this revolution. Well, we will not talk about the past. Since the early days of the revolution until recently, these issues have been raised on various occasions in sermons and in writings. I want to talk about the most recent issue.

Since the middle of last year, when the revolution's leaders and officials felt that there must be some strong movement in the battlefield, the Supreme Council for War Support invited the people to mobilize, and has invited them to go to the fronts, and to engage in

financial support, in a financial and real jihad for inflicting a blow on the Ba'thist enemy. All at once we sensed something new with respect to the actions of global arrogance.

What they want is this: Now that the revolution has been victorious, their real wish is to suppress it, but because they despair of a completely suppressing it, their main aim now is to prevent the revolution from overcoming its problems. They want it to be caught up by internal problems so that the movement slows down. They are terrified of the rapid movement which might result from the victory of this revolution in the battlefield. They are watchful in case something happens somewhere which will mean another great step taken toward the rule of Islam in the world.

After that popular movement and after the Hezbollah nation's acceptance of the country's leaders and officials' requests, they, too, made new moves. You have seen examples of these both in the Persian Gulf and in the replenishment of Iraq's arsenals. This was realized through a great number of missiles and considerable chemical facilities which have been recently put at its disposal. This has been done to the point that it is so irrational that political and historical analysts have thought that it is not possible for all these chemical weapons to be manufactured. They have claimed that these are from World War I and II depots which the Russians captured when they entered Germany. This is what is being said, but I do not know to what extent they are correct; things have reached this point.

From a propaganda point of view, you can see their action on the world level, in the United Nations, in the Security Council, the hue and cry about the resolution and the embargo and so on. The unprecedented pressure they are placing on our purchasing sources throughout the world is another point—the pressure they are placing on our economic resources, on oil. Whenever the United States becomes angry, instead of hitting a military target, it attacks an oil platform. On the whole, it can be seen that they have prepared an extensive plan for us.

What is strange here is that both the East and the West are involved; reaction and Israel are also involved. Arab reaction and Israel, who appear to be at war, unite against us. All the groupings that they have, everything at their disposal, they put to work. Even agents such as clergymen who receive bribes from some world powers have been brought by them into the field. They have held conferences and congresses, delivered speeches, written articles; they have mobilized all their available resources against us. Things reached the point when they even came out of their hiding places. In other words, they created conditions in which the superpowers officially confronted us. They became officially engaged in the war. This shows the degree of their fear.

Their movements became this bold when "Val-Fajr-10" took place and when several consecutive victorious offensives were undertaken by our fighters at the fronts. In a decisive step they captured over 1,000 kms of sensitive Iraqi territory. They captured 5-6,000 thousand people. That amazing victory inside Iraqi Kurdistan forced Saddam to massacre his own people.

The more the domestic Iraqi situation worsens, the more vicious our enemies become. This in its totality shows how sensitive that global infidelity is about this revolution and how concerned it is about this Islamic movement in Iran at this point in history.

Therefore, such an important and great task is impossible to perform with a meager capital. One is surprised at the enormity of this path—how it has made all the wrongdoers of the world angry, how it has forced them into futile action, and how they have had to abandon their own claims and principles.

What the United Nations did recently was very strange. During the Halabjah incident most of the world media, most of the world correspondents, and most of the doctors who became involved and every expert who came, all explicitly expressed the view that Halabjah was a crime committed by Saddam, and that Saddam had resorted to genocide. The most responsible U.N. authority sent an expert. Then, after a delay of 40 days, during which the case became somewhat old news, it issued a weak statement saying that, yes, in Halabjah chemical substances had been used and that individuals from Iran and Iraq have been hurt. That is the most that it said—that military personnel in Iraq were injured, and that civilians were also injured on the Iranian side.

Had the United Nations decided to discredit itself among neutral and competent people it could not choose a better way than that. The United Nations could do no more to lose face and erase the positive things it has done. That is how weak they are. They are so impotent in the face of this revolution and this Islam that they whitewash an obvious fact, one which all the world can see. Well, many newspapers wrote about it, and these newspapers are not in the pay of the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic has not bought those correspondents. All those doctors who came here expressed their views; we sent those teams all over the world with films that were screened in almost all the world's movie theaters, give or take a few. Yet, despite all these facts, how can a world organization like the United Nations speak in such a manner? It means that it attaches no importance to its own credibility against the wave of danger threatening the global infidelity. This is a lack of regard. Either they hold the world to be too stupid—thinking that the world believes whatever they say, or else they have lost hope. They have no alternative. Why did you undermine what others have said? Why did you perform your duty in such a manner? Are you being paid by the entire world to tell lies? [passage omitted]

As for what the United States did in the Persian Gulf—it was seriously disgraced. Well, now it is no great achievement for a power like the United States to cripple and sink two of our ships. For the United States to lose a vessel in this war and have one of its supply ships sunk with all hands on board, and one of its helicopters sunk; and yet for the United States not to have the courage to reveal the number of its wounded... [incomplete sentence as heard] One day they gave a figure of 14, the next they said 17 people were wounded, and one day they said 17 injured were taken from Bahrain hospitals to Germany, but they could not bring correspondents to see them.

The United States has supposedly come to establish security in the Persian Gulf. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent, and so much publicity has been made to the effect that it will restore security in the Persian Gulf. And this is security. An incident took place and for a full week the Americans were not able to move their fleets. Last night when they did sail past... [incomplete sentence as heard] The night before last, they sailed their fleet past with a lot of noise and air cover. At night they arrived in front of Farsi Island. Our fighters informed us from there that by midnight they were firing blindly for 1 to 1 and 1/2 hours into the sea. They lit up the sea because of the great numbers of shots they fired. They did this because they were frightened as they passed by an Iranian island. Is this the security which the United States has brought to the Persian Gulf? For its friends?

If one has a little sense of justice, if one knows a little about the world conditions, then one knows that such a state of affairs is the worst kind of losing face. However, they resort to propaganda. They say they came and did this and that. They come to hit two platforms belonging to Iran, an Iran which has been fighting for 8 years and has managed to preserve its limited possibilities. To hit two Iranian platforms and two vessels does not signify U.S. power. They came here in such a blatant manner, yet more blatant than that is what Saudi Arabia did. It suddenly announced the severance of ties in these tense conditions in which the United States is at war with us, and declared that Iranian pilgrims are forbidden to go to Mecca.

So you see how the reaction, the Western and Eastern imperialism, and all their stooges have been active not to let this revolution be victorious. They have given up hope of defeating this revolution, because to defeat this revolution means to destroy 50 million devoted people. That is Iran. Outside Iran there are probably tens of millions of people whose hearts beat for this revolution like the hearts of the Iranians. They are all over the world—even in the United States, in England, in Russia, everywhere, in Iraq, in Saudi Arabia. Wherever they go they will see the devotees of this revolution. They know that this revolution can no longer be suppressed. All these efforts are being made simply not to let this

revolution take an effective stride for its own victory. They do so not to let this revolution create yet another movement in the world. That is why they are trying so hard.

What is our duty under such conditions? What should a nation, which has been fighting for some 25 years and has been at war face to face with these satans for eight years, do? A nation which has given so many martyrs and victims? It is obvious what a nation will do with this revolution. It will do the same thing that you yourselves have decided.

I say that to continue the revolution, to deliver a blow on those who want to obstruct the revolution, and to break the power of these giants—giants who have so far proved that they can suppress any power if they desire to do so, that they can break any movement if they so want, and that they can achieve their ends if they so desire and which for the first time have tasted defeat in Iran—we must prove to them that Islam is more powerful than they are.

That same power, with those same facilities, does not rely on God; but this revolution relies on God. The same God who has drowned their men, the same God who has destroyed the tyrants; the same God who has made the oppressed victorious throughout history; the same God who has punished all criminals of history; that same God protects this revolution. If this nation is strong, as the world has seen, it is not because of its millions of young fighters, it is because of its Islamic essence; because of reliance on God; it is due to divine assistance. [passage omitted]

The United States, the United Nations, and others were disgraced and exposed to the world public opinion. The world learned the truth about them. These are our achievements. We consider them our main victories. If we had wanted to disgrace the United Nations, even if we had spent millions of dollars and written articles, we could not have disgraced them as much as they have by writing that statement. What kind of organization is it that claims to safeguard the security of mankind on earth, which closes its eyes to Saddam's crime in Halabjah in fear of Islam?

If we had wanted to show the U.S. weakness to the world and show the world and the nations that the United States is a paper tiger, we would have had no course of action but that of a few days ago in the Persian Gulf and last year in the Persian Gulf; for the people to see how effective NATO's deployment of troops was in the Persian Gulf; that those whose mission was to create security came and destroyed it; those whose mission was to crush Islam came and strengthened Islam there. We shall continue this holy course, which we have started with the hearts of all the people all over the world and are sure of our victory and success due to God's promise. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker Warns U.S. Against Gulf Plans
*LD011008 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT
1 May 88*

[Text] Tehran, May 1 IRNA—"The U.S. Administration is taking Americans towards another Vietnam," said Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday in reference to recent U.S. decision in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking in the open session of Majlis he commented on recent U.S. decision declaring an area in the Persian Gulf as the confrontation zone. He warned "it is not the U.S. which decides the zone and if from now on incidents occur in the Persian Gulf, the region of encounter will not be limited to the Persian Gulf."

The recent U.S. move taken under the pretext of so-called ensuring security in the Persian Gulf is an act of mischief. "It is a plot to handcuff the Islamic Republic of Iran and give an open hand to Saddam in the Persian Gulf."

More on the White House measure Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council said, Ronald Reagan, because of his psychological imbalance in the past two years and because of the approaching end of his political life has made a hasty and dangerous decision.

The experience of one year presence of U.S. fleets in the Persian Gulf has proved that it is unable to ensure the security of the region. Rather its presence has worked the opposite.

"Since the early days we stated that the Persian Gulf is like a swamp and if the U.S. enters it, it will find it difficult to leave and now we see the U.S. to get more and more sunk in this swamp, just as it was predicted," he added.

More on the same subject he said that the Americans are going towards an experience more bitter than that of the Vietnam, adding that Iran has repeatedly warned the U.S. in this respect.

Expressing regret on stance of regional countries he said the Zionist media which influence American public opinion launched a mischievous campaign to enable the U.S. to carry out its wicked acts and at the same time divert attention from Lebanon and occupied Palestine to the Persian Gulf region.

The weak and client states of the region readily call for U.S. guardianship which prompted them to encourage the U.S. to enter the Persian Gulf and now accept the presence of its forces in the waterway. By the same token these countries oppose proposals on reduction in oil production in order to ensure the interests of their masters.

The Majlis speaker stressed that the Iranian nation will not forego its rights, and recognizes the right to retaliate under any condition.

In conclusion he expressed hope that the U.S. officials and the Americans will prevent Reagan from implementing his new decision.

Majlis Speaker Speaks at Motahhari Ceremonies
LD302021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] On the occasion of the commemoration of Martyr Ayatollah Motahhari, ceremonies were held this afternoon at the invitation of his eminence the imam's office and with the participation of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Martyr Motahhari seminary.

In the ceremonies, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the position of Martyr Motahhari and examined the services he performed. He commented on the current position of clergymen and said: Since the inception of seminaries in the holy city of Najaf, there has never been such an opportunity for the clergy to work, serve, crusade, discuss ideas, and present Islam. This unique and rare movement did not exist previously.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council referred to the fact that publicity rules the world, that free-thinking exists, and that a tendency to listen to just words also exist in the world, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, because of the sensitive situation in the region and because of the capabilities that exist in the nation itself, has attracted the world's attention and sensitivity. He added: We now hold a sensitive position in world public opinion. The Persian Gulf war and the issues raised and magnified by our enemies in order to suppress us are such that the Islamic Republic is among the most newsworthy countries and, despite misleading propaganda throughout the world, we also have many supporters. This is an opportunity which has been created for us and we must now perform our duty well.

Majlis Speaker Negotiated End To Hijacking
LD291544 Hamburg DPA in German 1430 GMT
29 Apr 88

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—According to details from the newspaper BILD, the mysterious and prominent mediator responsible for the fortunate change of direction in the hostage drama at Algiers was Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani (54). BILD reports in its Saturday edition this information comes from "reliable Western secret service sources."

According to this information, during the night of 18-19 April Hashemi-Rafsanjani was in Algiers and negotiated directly with the eight Shi'ite terrorists who had hijacked the Kuwaiti jumbo jet and the 97 people onboard during a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait and murdered 2 passengers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani took the hijackers back to Iran with him after the Algerian Government had promised them immunity from prosecution. According to BILD, the Shi'ite hijackers surrendered after Hashemi-Rafsanjani had delivered a verbal undertaking from the amir of Kuwait that none of the 17 Shi'ite terrorists imprisoned in Kuwait and whose freedom the kidnappers had wanted to free would be executed. Death sentences would be commuted to life sentences, and prison sentences shortened by one-third. Kuwait paid no money for the liberation of the remaining 31 hostages on board the plane.

Musavi Interviewed After Cabinet Meeting
NC0205062688 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1700 GMT 1 May 88

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent at the conclusion of the 1 May cabinet session in Tehran]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, please comment on the topics discussed during today's cabinet meeting.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. In addition to discussing a number of bills today, we also studied political analyses and reports on the world situation and Persian Gulf issues.

[Correspondent] Mr Musavi, Reagan recently announced new decisions regarding the Persian Gulf. In view of the fact that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave a mouth-crushing answer to these during this morning's Majlis open session, what is your position as the head of the Islamic Republic's Government?

[Musavi] America has expanded the aggressive activities of its ships in the Persian Gulf on the pretext that this will ensure the security of the Gulf. The Islamic Republic's policy has always been based on the Koran and Islam. We have chosen not to surrender to any attack, but to retaliate. It is futile for America to believe it can now confront us by supporting Iraq more openly—and it was with American support that Saddam entered the war—or that it can launch an aggression without eliciting any response. It is naive for America to believe we will respond to it in the same front that it opened. We will answer in the Persian Gulf and throughout the world by using our power and strength. If an aggression is launched against us, we will certainly give the necessary answer, a strong answer. Global arrogance should abandon any hope that the Islamic Republic will retreat one step or abandon its principled policies.

Under the present conditions, we consider the opportunity suitable to fully alert world public opinion to the complicity between Iraq and global arrogance led by America. As far as our Islamic Revolution is concerned, however, it is only natural that we see a harmony of

views and unity among the arrogant powers throughout the world. This has been the case from the very beginning. However, the cooperation between America and Iraq is quite spectacular.

[Correspondent] Mr Musavi, at the current OPEC conference in Vienna, the Government of the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and a number of other regional Arab countries, particularly Kuwait, are resorting to mischiefs regarding a reduction in the production ceiling. What is your opinion on this?

[Musavi] I believe that most of the nations of the world are well aware of these policies by now. These [regional] countries have invited America to the Persian Gulf and are assisting it. Actually, it is because of the dependence, weakness, and subservency of these countries that the wheels of the West's industries are moving. This comes at a time when all the oil-producing countries—both members and nonmembers of OPEC—are calling for a slight reduction in production in order to achieve an increase in oil prices—a move that will benefit all oil-producing nations. However, these countries are resisting. This very resistance, I believe, reveals the problems which the Islamic Revolution has with them in the region and enlightens world public opinion. [end recording]

[Announcer] Continuing his remarks in this interview, the prime minister addressed the workers of the nation on Labor Day, and said: The best message was given by the imam of the ummah at a time when leftist and rightist groups—chanting empty slogans conducted from outside the borders—tried to impose a great treachery on our working society. His message was that it is Islam which is the true supporter of the workers. The prime minister added: If we look carefully, we will see how the products of our country's factories are the fruits of the minds, work, and hands of our dear workers. The impact of this is perceptible in the country's economic development. It was the workers who, at the beginning of the revolution, prevented the plundering of the people's wealth.

The prime minister emphasized: We hope to see a more effective daily presence of our workers on the economic and political scenes. Of course, parallel with the government's expression of gratitude to the workers, there also is the issue of the labor law which manifests the government's views regarding our working society.

Khamene'i on Production of First Computer
LD302123 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i inspected Pars electric plant and inaugurated the production-phase of the first Iranian-made personal computer here today.

Islam respects and appreciates the workers' dedicated efforts and this is a fact which should be considered as a principled by all related organizations, said Khamene'i after inspecting the industrial unit on the eve of "Labour Day" (May 1).

The president stressed that the workers are among the most faithful strata of the society who preserve and protect the Islamic Revolution's achievements.

Despite global arrogance's conspiracies against Islamic Iran, the factories are still fully active and this is due to the workers' selfless efforts, said Khamene'i.

The president called for the workers to struggle ceaselessly in order to foil enemy plots, and consequently be a model of inspiration for the world muslims.

Computer production not only helps the government minimize foreign currency spending, but also enriches other industries of the country by storing valuable technical data and deriving maximum results from the computer's use.

Pars electric plant manufactures different models of color and black and white television sets.

Another Narcotics Ring Smashed in Kerman
LD301414 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Kerman, April 30, IRNA—Guards of the Islamic Revolutions Committees (IRC) in a coordinated and wide-scale operations have destroyed a convoy of narcotic dealers in south western mountains of Kerman, announced an IRC commander Saturday.

He said that at least ten experienced smugglers encircled by IRC forces of Meqdad and Abuzar bases were killed and several others wounded in the clash.

Several vehicles, motorbikes, wireless sets, a large haul of drugs and ammunitions, a number of weapons as well as several rockets and tens of millions of rials of cash were set ablaze, IRC commander added.

The smugglers were intending to distribute narcotics among local smugglers and were equipped with modern weapons such as anti-aircraft guns, RPG's, missiles, radio sets and semi-heavy weapons, he expressed.

The IRC commander said that 11 Kalashnikovs, machine guns, Brno rifles and 2,950 cartridges of all types, one sophisticated missile, six motorbikes, two vehicles, carpets and narcotics were seized, adding that IRC forces sustained no casualties.

He also noted that another group of smugglers were wiped out in Kerman few days ago and eight guns, 12,000 cartridges, heavy and light weapons, 4,500 kilograms of opium, 130 vehicles and motorcycles were seized intact.

He stressed that at least 60 armed drug dealers were killed in the clashes and 200 of them arrested and handed to judicial officials. He added that the smugglers admitted that they had distributed some 30 tons of narcotics in the region.

Mo'ayeri on Saudi-Iraqi 'Complicity'

LD301615 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri terming the Hijaz regime's breaking of ties with Iran as "a feeble move", here today, said "the act proved the depth of Al Sa'ud's fear from genuine Islam."

The regime ruling Hijaz unilaterally announced severance of its relations with Islamic Iran last Tuesday.

In a talk with IRNA, Mo'ayeri noted the Wahhabi [Islamic sect] clique's complicity with Iraqi Ba'thist and the U.S. Administration, and said the issue will make Hijazi and world Muslims better informed of the Saudi regime's true nature.

The deputy premier dismissing Riyadh's reasons for snapping of ties as "mere pretexts", said the main objective of the Saudi regime is to prevent Iranian Muslims from performing the hajj pilgrimage.

The Saudi potentates, he noted, were staunchly loyal to the deposed shah of Iran, both before and during the events of the Islamic revolution (1978-79). After the Islamic revolution, he added, Riyadh did not conceal its enmity against Islamic Iran and backed the Iraqi regime's aggression and also created hurdles (for Iran) at various OPEC conferences.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always advised regional countries to keep their claimed neutrality in the Iraqi-imposed war, he said adding, but unfortunately some of them paid no attention to Iran's advice. "They violated their impartiality through political and financial support for Baghdad," Mo'ayeri said.

The deputy premier said the Saudi regime cold-bloodedly massacred hajj pilgrims in Mecca last year in line with imperialist policies, concurrently with NATO's naval intrusion led by the U.S. in the Persian Gulf.

Saudi police in a joint pre-planned Washington-Riyadh plot opened fire at Iranian and non-Iranian hajj pilgrims who were peacefully demonstrating their "antipathy towards unbelievers" near Allah's house in Mecca, where

the shedding of even an animal's blood is divinely prohibited. Hundreds of pilgrims were martyred and thousands of others injured in the Mecca carnage on July 31.

"It is a nightmare for Hijaz rulers that revolutionary Muslims of Iran can communicate with other Muslims in the world in Mecca," he noted. Therefore, he added, Fahd's regime has broken relations with Iran in coordination with the White House's plan for backing the Ba'thist Iraqi regime.

Mo'ayeri reiterated that Iran does not accept the despatch of less than 150,000 hajj pilgrims to the holy city of Mecca. "We reject hajj rites without its socio-political aspect and apathy towards unbelievers," he concluded.

Riyadh had tried to impose restrictions on the number of Iranian pilgrims, saying that only 45,000 Iranians can perform this year's hajj pilgrimage.

Of late there has been worldwide reaction by Muslims against the U.S. backed house of Al Sa'ud's unauthorised custodianship of Islam's holiest shrines and seminars have been held to wrest the "Haramain" [the two holy mosques in Mecca] from Saudi occupation and entrust their administration to a body of Muslim ulama.

Pilgrimage Official Criticizes Saudi Arabia

LD011418 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0930 GMT on 1 May carries a 60-minute recorded speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative in charge of the hajj, Emami-Jamarani, which was delivered in Tehran before Friday prayers on 29 April. Emami-Jamarani repeats Iran's position on Saudi Arabia's hostility to Iranian pilgrims in preventing them from taking part in marches and demonstrations and chanting anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans. He praises the Iranian pilgrims for their steadfastness and for the sacrifices they made in order to uphold the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Emami-Jamarani then says: "At the conference held in Tehran this year on the sanctity and holiness of the house of God, one of the Sunni ulama—despite the fact that the Saudis say that the Sunnis do not agree with our remarks—in his speech openly said: 'O Muslims arise, the Al Sa'ud are a bunch of Jews. They are Israel's brothers. They have signed an agreement with Israel. They work against the Muslims and against Islamic principles. They have destroyed all signs of Islam.' This is not what I am saying. This is what one of the Sunni ulama said.

"The Al Sa'ud say that according to Islamic scholars, the hajj has no political dimension. This year in my discussions with them I told them: You say the hajj has no political dimension. On whose authority do you say this? Do you not mean that your ulama, the Sunni ulama say this? This year more than 200 Sunni and congregational

ulema and some Shi'ite ulema took part in that conference. Not only did they accept the political dimension of the hajj, they even discussed slogans for the hajj ceremonies. They regard the disavowal of infidels as an Islamic and divine duty. In addition, they even regard you [the Saudi authorities] as Jews. Perhaps the Iranians have never said that the Al Sa'ud rulers are Jews, but Sunni ulema are saying that they are Jews. I am quoting them. An illustrious Sunni scholar said that the Saudi rulers are Jews. Even if we do not agree that you are Jews, your deeds are worse than that of the Jews. What you did to Muslims in the house of God has never been done to Muslims by the Jews.

"At the moment, you see that Israel is crushing the Muslims, but which Muslims? Israel is crushing the Muslims who took part in the uprising and took up arms and are confronting Israel. Israel sees its security threatened, and acts like this against those Muslims who have threatened her security. However, we never threatened your security. We endured all the hardships inflicted on us by the Al Sa'ud in Mecca. Nevertheless, our old men and old women pilgrims were massacred at your hands for chanting slogans against America and Israel. They were massacred at the hands of the criminals of the Al Sa'ud family.

"Now see their shamelessness and impudence. Last year the executioners massacred our defenseless people with the machine guns. Nevertheless, in their media they said that they had not fired a single shot."

U.S. Military Delegation Taken to Mecca
*LD301822 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT
30 Apr 88*

[Text] Beirut, April 30, IRNA—A special American military delegation which recently arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was secretly taken to Islam's holiest city, Mecca, where non-Muslims are divinely prohibited, disclosed the weekly AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI here today.

It said the American delegation was flown to the city three times totalling eight hours. Although details of this new Saudi sacrilege in taking U.S. militarymen to Mecca is not yet been known, but it certainly seems to be linked with this year's hajj pilgrimage, the daily predicted.

It has become clear that some Arab states and especially the U.S. were involved in last year's horrible plot in which the Saudi regime criminally slaughtered more than 400 pilgrims near Allah's house, where the shedding of even an animal's blood is divinely prohibited.

It has since become known that the Fahd regime in coordination with Western military experts had hatched the plot and used their assistance in its implementation against defenseless pilgrims.

Reagan Warned Not To Interfere in Gulf
*LD011447 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian,
1116 GMT 1 May 88*

[Station commentary: "Serious Opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Reagan's New Project"]

[Text] In accordance with its policy of increasing its support for the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime, the U.S. Government has declared that under special conditions it will protect ships requesting help. This issue, which amounts to an increase in the extent of U.S. military interference in the Persian Gulf, has already met with serious opposition from the Islamic Republic of Iran. As reported this morning, the Majlis speaker referred to this new U.S. conspiracy in a statement in the presence of the people's representatives, and he warned the U.S. Government against following such a program. He declared: If an incident takes place in the Persian Gulf, the area of conflict will no longer be limited to the Persian Gulf.

The statement by the spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council illustrates the decisive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the conspiracy to expand the interference of the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf. What the U.S. Government calls the safeguarding of shipping lanes or defending the lives of sailors only creates mischief, as well as attempts to tie the Islamic Republic's hands, while leaving the hands of the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime free to inflame the Persian Gulf.

The form of this plot designed by our enemies is such that it will allow the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime to continue to create mischief in the Persian Gulf through the weapons and the policy of the superpowers. Iraq will be able to target Iran's ships and set economic centers on fire, but no harm will be directed at any country in the region or at the arrogant governments supporting the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime. This places possibilities at the disposal of Iraq and its ships.

The United States intends dividing the Persian Gulf into two zones, one insecure and the other secure. This policy of Washington will, no doubt, increase the wave of insecurity in the waters of the Persian Gulf. We have learned through experience that the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf has not brought calm and security. On the contrary, it has increased insecurity and tension. This can be seen by comparing the world's major insurance companies' statistics for previous years with this year's. The reason for such an increase is undoubtedly due to the presence of foreign forces in the region and their support for the 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq.

The U.S. Government's intention to increase this interference gives rise to greater tension and insecurity. The clashes of the brave sailors of the Navy and the IRGC's naval units 2 weeks ago with the well-equipped U.S. fleet indicated that the Islamic Republic of Iran will defend its interests at any cost and will not respond to the U.S. fist with a smile.

If the U.S. Government intends to avenge its previous defeats at the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if Reagan has been driven to such lengths at the end of his political life, we must repeat our warning that the Reagan administration's policy is driving the United States toward another Vietnam, indeed, probably to a worse situation.

If the Reagan administration intends to behave like a bully in the Persian Gulf and attack Iranian interests, then in such situations the Islamic Republic, in defending itself and confronting its enemies, will respond to every enemy blow with another blow.

New U.S. Gulf Plan Will Increase Tension
*LD301402 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 30 Apr 88*

[Station commentary: "The New U.S. Plan, or Increasing Tension in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] On the basis of reports, the U.S. Defense Department announced yesterday that U.S. President Reagan has decided to give permission to U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf to protect neutral ships, such as ships under the U.S. flag. The new U.S. plan, which is another step in fomenting tension in the Persian Gulf, has once again placed security and peace in the region in serious danger, because the aim of this new trick of the U.S. Administration—which is inherently in a state of confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran—is nothing more than giving Iraq a free hand to attack ships. In other words, the new American project encompasses all vessels except those entering or leaving Iran's ports. Thus, Iraq will have more freedom of action in hitting vessels that are in the traffic lines of Iran's ports, because it is only vessels that enter and leave Iran's ports that are not escorted.

Hence, the United States is, on one hand, seeking to limit the Islamic Republic's retaliatory powers, and on the other, has placed itself alongside the Iraqi regime by giving it full support in the tanker wars. However, it is evident that the security afforded ships in the Persian Gulf will be meaningful only to a few ships, and it will be impossible to deprive only those ships that are in the traffic lines of Iran's ports from security: Security is for all or for none.

The announcement of this plan, which will lead to further tension and disputes, violates Paragraph 5 of Security Council Resolution No 598. This resolution, which was passed under U.S. pressure and after 6 months of discussions, has been repeatedly violated from the day it was passed up to today. Paragraph 5 calls on other countries to exercise great restraint and refrain from any measures which may possibly lead to further tension and extension of disputes. This paragraph has again been violated by the latest step taken by the United States. Through this move, the United States will be directly facing the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this will increase tension and render disputes more widespread.

The truth is that the longer the United States is present in the region, the more the embarrassment of White House's bullies—despite their lies that they are establishing security in the Persian Gulf—becomes apparent. The fact that the figures for Americans killed in engagements with the fighters of Islam in the Persian Gulf have not been announced, and the fact that they were ambiguous about the number of those who were injured, and about the two U.S. helicopter pilots killed—which was confirmed by the Pentagon—demonstrates that the United States has fallen into a whirlpool; the more it struggles, the more it will sink.

Just as the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced, the Persian Gulf will either be secure for all ships or for none. The new U.S. plan to escort neutral ships will only increase tension.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

U.S. Plane Violates Airspace
*LD301035 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT
30 Apr 88*

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated Hamadan and Bushehr air spaces while a U.S. reconnaissance plane violated the air space of the southern Hormozgan Province this morning.

Iranian anti-aircraft fire forced the Iraqi planes to flee from the region. They broke the sound barrier as they zoomed out of the Iranian airspace. The U.S. plane twice flew over Hormozgan air space at a high altitude and broke the sound barrier over the region.

Communique No 3,187
*LD291713 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT
29 Apr 88*

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Iraqi positions and strongholds in Al-Faw operational theater were bombed by Iranian jets Thursday morning. All the planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, the 3187th Joint Staff communique reported here today.

The communique said Iranian fighters also gave air cover to the naval units which carried out their patrol missions in the coastlines and international waters in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Thursday.

An Iraqi warplane and a helicopter were forced by Iranian anti-aircraft fire to flee as they attempted to approach Abu Musa Island in the Persian Gulf Thursday. Iranian anti-aircraft fire also thwarted reconnaissance flights of enemy choppers in Mehran operational region, western fronts, on the same day.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout war fronts with Iranian combatants bringing enemy positions and motorized columns under their artillery, tank and mortar fire, and inflicting human and material losses on the enemy.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed several Iraqi gun emplacements and killed or wounded a group of Ba'thist soldiers when they shelled enemy positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Thursday, the communique concluded.

Residential Areas Shelled

*LD301328 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT
30 Apr 88*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 30 IRNA—Residential areas of the southern city of Abadan were heavily shelled by Iraqi long range artillery fire today. A number of houses were damaged and several people were wounded in the attack.

Communique No 3,188

*LD301818 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT
30 Apr 88*

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Iran's Air Force successfully carried out its missions of the past 24 hours by adopting suitable tactical measures against enemy air threats. Iranian jet fighters also patrolled over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman for reconnoitering some 28 foreign vessels, including tankers, cargo and warships, said a daily military communique today.

Communique 3188 of the Joint Staff Command announcing that all jet-fighters returned safely to bases added, in the Strait of Hormuz Friday, Iranian naval forces intercepted an oil tanker and a cargo ship but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

On the battlefields, continued the communique, Muslim combatants of the Army Ground Forces checked enemy infantry, armoured, artillery and engineering activities throughout the fronts over Friday and Saturday.

Iran's Muslim combatants, it said, subjected Iraqi vehicle columns in Helaleh (Tappe Shohada) [name as received], Sumar, Kani-Sheykh, and Hoseyniyeh to their heavy fire Friday.

In the western fronts the same day, the Muslim combatants restricted Iraqi plane and copter flights in Mehran, Kani-Sheykh and Naft-e Shah preventing them from carrying out any tactical activities, it said adding, Iraqi forces sustained substantial casualties and damage by heavy Iranian fire on their positions and fortifications.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces inflicted heavy damage and casualties on the enemy forces Friday destroying their positions and fortifications.

IRGC, Kurds Attack Iraqi Bases

*LD011031 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT
1 May 88*

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Combatants of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) teamed up with forces of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to destroy headquarters of Khafifa (Light) Battalion 13 and 19 bases of the Iraqi regime on Pikav [name as received]-Zakhu road over the past few days.

According to the IRGC Central Headquarters during the operations the Muslim forces blasted two old Zarira [name as received] and new Zarira bridges used by the Iraqi troops killing a large group of enemy forces. 90 Iraqi soldiers were also captured, it said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi mujahidin of Badr Division 9 killed or wounded dozens of government troops in the course of their attacks on Iraqi troops west of Hor-Alazim [name as received].

Concurrently with mujahidin's operations Iraqi tribesmen of the Tigris and Euphrates regions also destroyed four Iraqi outposts, an anti-aircraft gun, two mortar launchers and three military vehicles of the government troops west of Umm Al-Na'aj [name as received] Lake.

All mujahidin returned safely to bases after demolishing more than 10 Iraqi boats and four munitions depots in the west bank of the lake.

In another development Iraq's Kurdish Hezbollah killed 28 Iraqi troops and wounded scores of others when they set afire three government military vehicles and a minibus carrying Iraqi soldiers by their mine on Mirgah Sur road last week.

Navy Intercepts 7 Ships

*LD011656 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT
1 May 88*

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman according to international regulations Saturday ignoring a provocative warning from a foreign warship, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3189th Joint Staff communique said that Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and inspected seven cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, as well as closely monitoring movement of four foreign warships.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Saturday, as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy fortifications set ablaze.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Panjwin, Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin and enemy logistical activities in Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, Sharhani, Zobeydah and Tayyebabad yesterday, inflicting several casualties and losses on the enemy.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers and a vehicle destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday.

On Thursday, an Iranian patrol convoy infiltrated and stormed Iraqi positions in a northwestern theater, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy troops and capturing several soldiers. They also seized intact several light and heavy weapons and some communication sets before returning safely to bases, concluded the communique.

Abadan Hit By Iraqi Artillery

LD011718 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT
1 May 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 1, IRNA—Civilian quarters of the resistant city of Abadan (Khuzestan Province) were again subjected to heavy artillery fire of Iraqi Ba'thist troops, today. Some residential units sustained damage in the course of the enemy's savage shelling of the city.

Pakistan

Junejo Sends Congratulations to Soviet Leaders

BK0105031488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] In separate messages to the Soviet leader Gorbachev and Soviet Council of Ministers Chairman Ryzhkov, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo congratulated them on the occasion of today's 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. The prime minister said both countries desire peace and stability in the region. He said the Geneva accords, which are an important step for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, will also prove helpful in realizing friendly, cooperative relations between the countries of the region. He expressed the hope that the accords will usher in a new chapter of friendly, fruitful, and good-neighborly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. Mohammad Khan Junejo expressed appreciation for Soviet assistance in the nation's economic sphere and expressed the hope that cultural relations between the two countries will be strengthened.

The Soviet Council of Ministers has also congratulated the Pakistani prime minister on this occasion. In its message, the Council of Ministers said both countries have benefited mutually from adopting a far-sighted view on fruitful, mutual cooperation in international

affairs. The council expressed the hope that relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan will continue to expand for the benefit of the people of the two countries and for peace and stability.

Geneva Accord Monitoring Group Leaves for Kabul

BK300826 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] The UN implementation assistance group left Islamabad for Kabul this morning for talks with officials of the Kabul regime on monitoring the implementation of the Geneva accord. Before their departure, a spokesman of the group described the group's meeting with the officials of the Pakistan Government as very positive and constructive. He said they have received assurances of full cooperation from the Government of Pakistan.

Poor Security Alleged at Karachi Nuclear Plant

BK300654 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 30 Apr 88

[Text] The Karachi nuclear power plant in Pakistan is reported to be one of the least safeguarded plants in the world, which could trigger off a nuclear holocaust. PTI, quoting a Pakistani newspaper, DAILY NEWS, says lack of security in and around the plant coupled with the easy availability of explosives has alarmed Pakistani security experts. One security expert told the paper that if a nuclear disaster occurs there, it can be much worse than the Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union.

Satellite Ground Station Operational in 2 Weeks

BK2904153688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission [SUPARCO] has completed the construction of a ground station for collecting data from weather satellites. The new station, currently being run on a trial basis in Karachi, will be fully operational during the next 2 weeks. The SUPARCO director said in an interview in Karachi today the station will receive cloud images from U.S. and Soviet weather satellites and analyze them. The station is equipped with special electronic instruments and monitors.

Sri Lanka

Landmine Kills 11 Bus Passengers, Wounds 30

BK0105062888 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0604 GMT 1 May 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 1 (LANKA PUWATH)—Eleven passengers were killed and thirty wounded, when a Sri Lanka transport board bus was blown up by an LTTE

terrorist landmine on the Alakantale road at Trincomalee at 1000 hours (0430 GMT) this morning, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. First reports stated all dead and wounded were civilians.

Death Toll Rises to 26

BK0105131588 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1257 GMT 1 May 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 1 (LANKA PUWATH)—Twenty-six civilian passengers were killed when a Sri Lanka Transport Board bus plying from Kallar to Kantale was blown up by an LTTE terrorist landmine at Sittaru on the Alakantale road at Trincomalee at 0930 hours (local time) this morning, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. [passage omitted]

LANKA PUWATH Reports Security Situation

BK2904103688 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0950 GMT 29 Apr 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 29 (LANKA PUWATH)—The situation in Sri Lanka was calm and peaceful today, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. Yesterday too the situation was comparatively fair, but for a few sporadic incidents.

They said that during yesterday's provincial councils elections the situation was quiet, but for a few isolated incidents. There was a heavy security network in operation throughout the country and certain attempts by southern terrorists to disrupt the elections had failed.

Meanwhile, a T-56 semi-automatic rifle believed to have been robbed from the Kotalewala defence academy at Ratmalana in the suburbs of Colombo was recovered yesterday by the Negombo police in a land adjoining the Katunayake air force base.

Official sources said that it was believed this weapon was one of those used by Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) terrorists recently and had been left behind when the terrorists fled when the air force counter attacked.

Three T-56 rifles robbed from the Air Force sub armoury were also found by the Negombo police a few days ago in a coconut grove close to the air force base. These too are believed to have been dropped as the terrorists raiders fled. Official sources said that the investigations into the air force base attack were proceeding satisfactorily and certain arrests were imminent.

Seven southern terrorists were killed, and eleven captured during their raid on the air force base.

Meanwhile, official sources said that southern terrorists stabbed two army soldiers who were guarding a detainee at Karapitiya hospital in Sri Lanka's Southern Province town of Galle. One of them, G.G. Herath, succumbed to his injuries. Southern terrorists had also robbed two 81 [as received] automatic guns along with four magazines at Hathigama in Maho yesterday.

A JVP terrorist also shot at a police constable and wounded him. The wounded policeman's name was given as Tikiri Banda. It is also reported that his rifle had been robbed.

India Spends 5 Million Rupees Per Day on Forces

BK2904110488 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Indian Defense Minister K.C. Pant said yesterday that India was spending 5 million rupees a day to maintain peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka. A Defense Ministry spokesman said that Mr Pant's statement in parliament was a public disclosure of the cost of maintaining the troops sent to Sri Lanka.

As many as 229 IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] personnel have been killed in the operation in Sri Lanka during the 6 months period ending 28 April this year. The minister of state for defense, Mohan Dev, revealed this in a written reply to a question from another member of parliament.

The Indian peacekeeping force was sent to Sri Lanka to help the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka peace accord.

Minister Explains Powers of Provincial Councils

BK3004092888 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0749 GMT 30 Apr 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—The four provincial councils to which elections were held on Thursday will start functioning within the next fortnight, and the governors of these provinces took their oaths today. This was disclosed yesterday by Mr. Rupa Karunatileke, deputy minister for the Ministry of Provincial Councils, at a press conference at the Bandaranaike Memorial Conference Hall (BMICH).

The four governors are Labour Minister P.C. Imbulana (Uva), Mr. Noel Wimalasena (Sabaragamuwa), Plan Implementation Minister D. B. Welegedara (North-Central Province) and Agriculture Minister D.B. Wijetunge (North-Western Province).

Mr. Karunatileke said that with the functioning of the provincial councils, the district ministries will cease of function and the posts of district ministers will be abolished.

The Ministry of Local Government will continue to function as the policy-making body of the central government for local institutions. But the local government institutions—municipalities, *pradeshiya sabbas* [village-level institutions]—will function under the provincial councils. Their powers will remain the same. The provincial councils would not be able to reduce their existing powers, but would be able to grant more powers to them.

Answering a question whether the position of the mayors will be diminished, Mr. Karunatileke said: "No they will continue to enjoy the same powers."

As regards the government agents, he said they will continue to function in the same capacity for some time. But they will eventually be under the chief secretary of the provincial council.

Under the Provincial Councils Act No. 37, subjects are assigned to the councils, and these subjects will be divided among the four ministers of the council. Each minister would have a secretary and the government agents (GAs) could become one of them.

Mr. Karunatileke said at the moment the officials of his ministry were discussing with officials of the central government ministries the functions to be devolved to the provinces. It would take a little time to finalise this.

As regards funds for the provinces, the central government would make allocations. This would be done by a financial commission that will be set up which will have as its ex-officio members the governor of the Central Bank and the secretary to the Treasury, and also three appointed members—Mr. A.M.D.S. Jayaratne, chairman of Forbes and Walker, Mr. M. Sivanathan, secretary, Ministry of Industries and Mr. F. Mustapha, president's counsel.

The provincial councils would also be raising funds by taxes, and borrowings from the Central Bank and other banks. The provinces would not be one of those elected. [sentence as received]

As regards the chief ministers, they would have to be from among the elected members. Each party, when they handed in its nominations, had decided on this person and put him at top of the list. In order of preferences he need not be first in the list, but had to be one of those elected. The buildings for the provincial councils have already been located, Mr. Karunatileke said.

Mr. Karunatileke was assisted by Mr. Tissa Jayakody, secretary to the Provincial Councils Ministry, Mr. Asoka Gonawardena, additional secretary to the ministry and Mr R.M.V. Ratnayake, senior assistant secretary to the ministry.